Oliver Cromwell Case Letters

Burnside Bridge today looking from the Federal side and the bluff overlooking the bridge where the Georgia sharp shooters killed many Union troops trying to cross the bridge

A Civil War Story

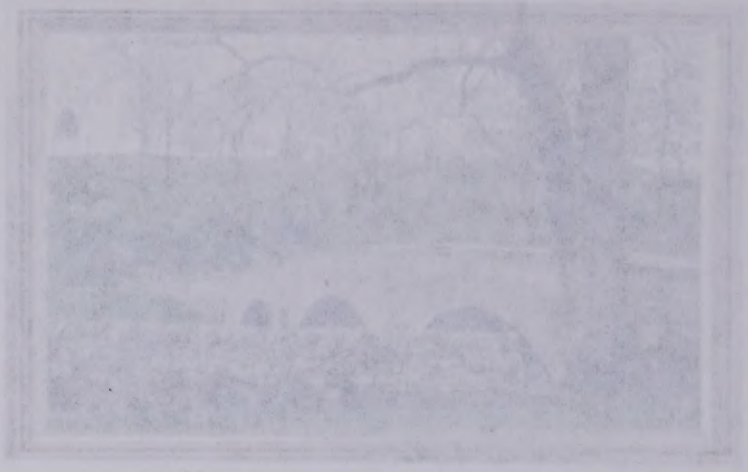
Antietam

From Letters Written By Oliver Cromwell Case To His Sister Abbie

"If you die, die like a man"
A Quote from Oliver's Bible

Edited by Richard K. Converse
Fort Mill, S. C.

Published September, 2010



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Oliver
Cromwell
Case
Story

Sept 1861—
Sept 1862

Just Cit: A

Oliver
Cromwell
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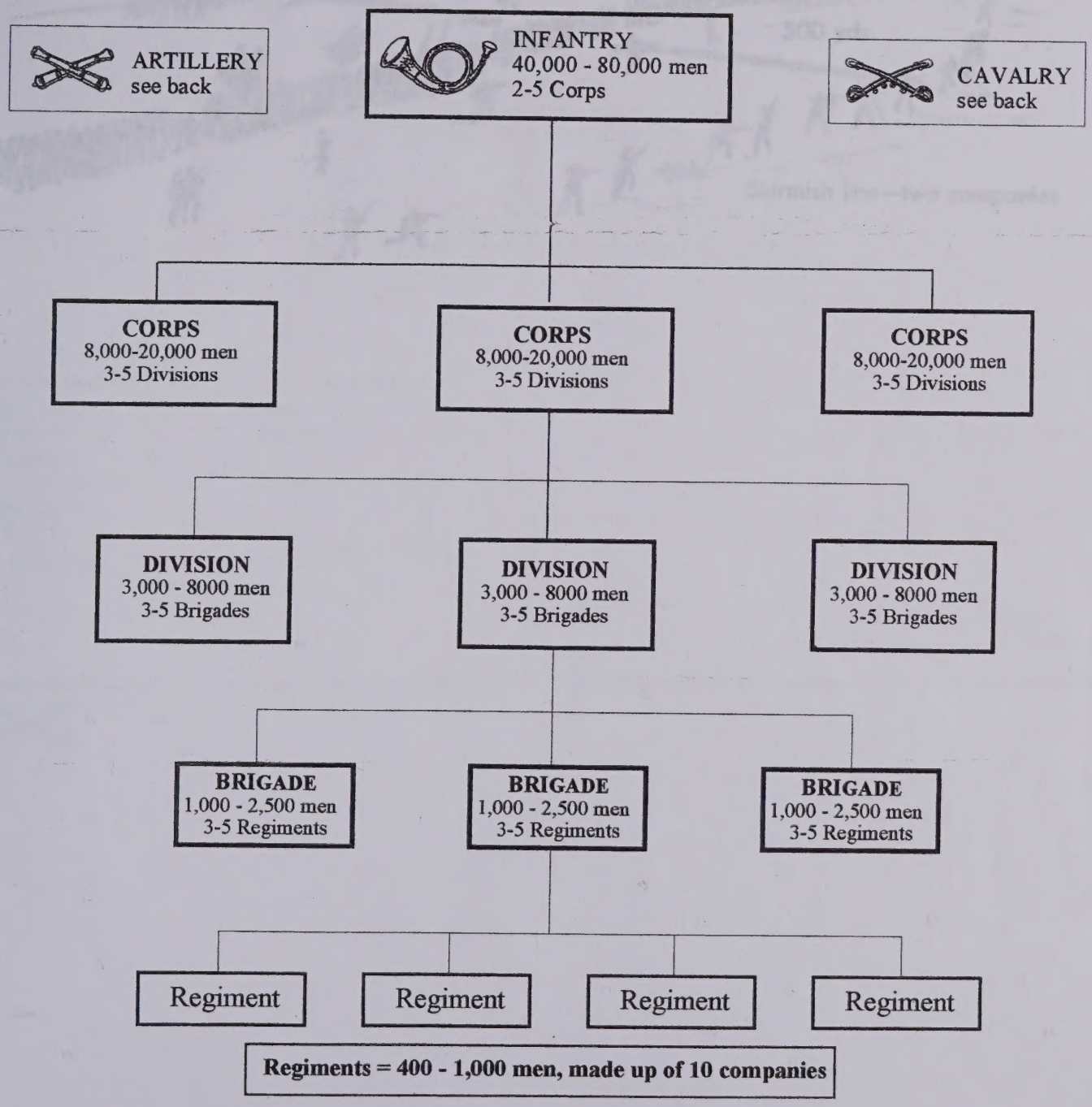
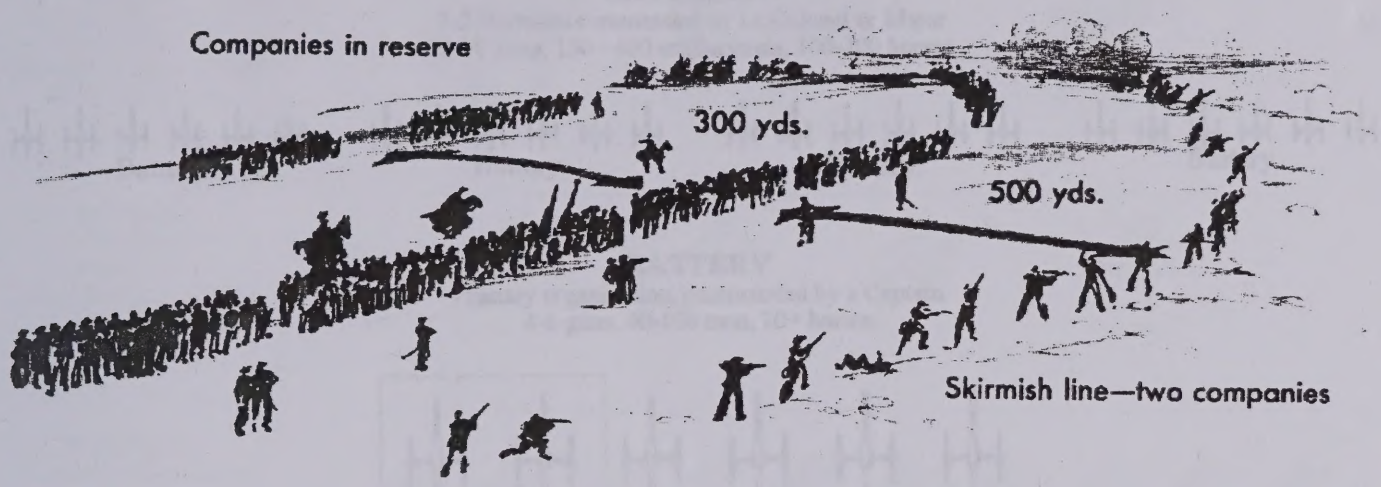
Organization of Civil War Armies

These charts are a consensus of many sources intended to show only the probable strength and make-up of units at the time. The chain of command was always subject to change and numbers varied dramatically. Typically the armies of the civil war were divided into three combat arms — infantry (the largest), artillery and cavalry.



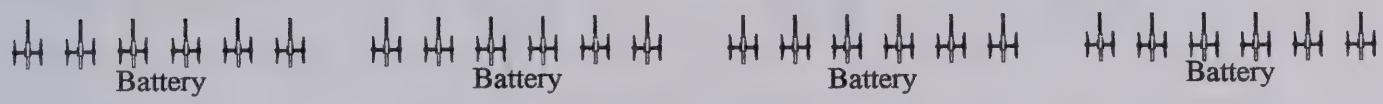
At Antietam there were about 400 regiments of infantry organized into six Union Corps and two Confederate Corps or Wings — approximately 120,000 men.

Regiment of Infantry in Battle Formation



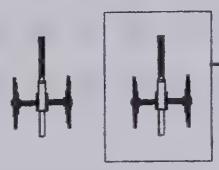
ARTILLERY ORGANIZATION

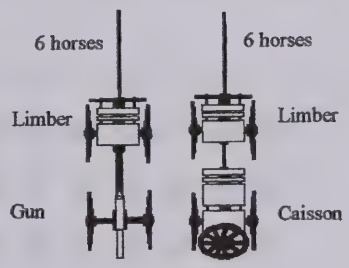
BATTALION
3-5 Batteries commanded by Lt.Colonel or Major
12-30 guns, 150 - 400 artillerymen, 100-300 horses



BATTERY
Primary organization, commanded by a Captain
4-6 guns, 40-100 men, 70+ horses

SECTION
2 guns (+ limbers and caissons)
commanded by a Lieutenant





PIECE
or one gun
commanded by a Sergeant
8 men + 12 horses + 6 drivers

At Antietam there were about 500 cannons, approximately 300 Union to 200 Confederate.

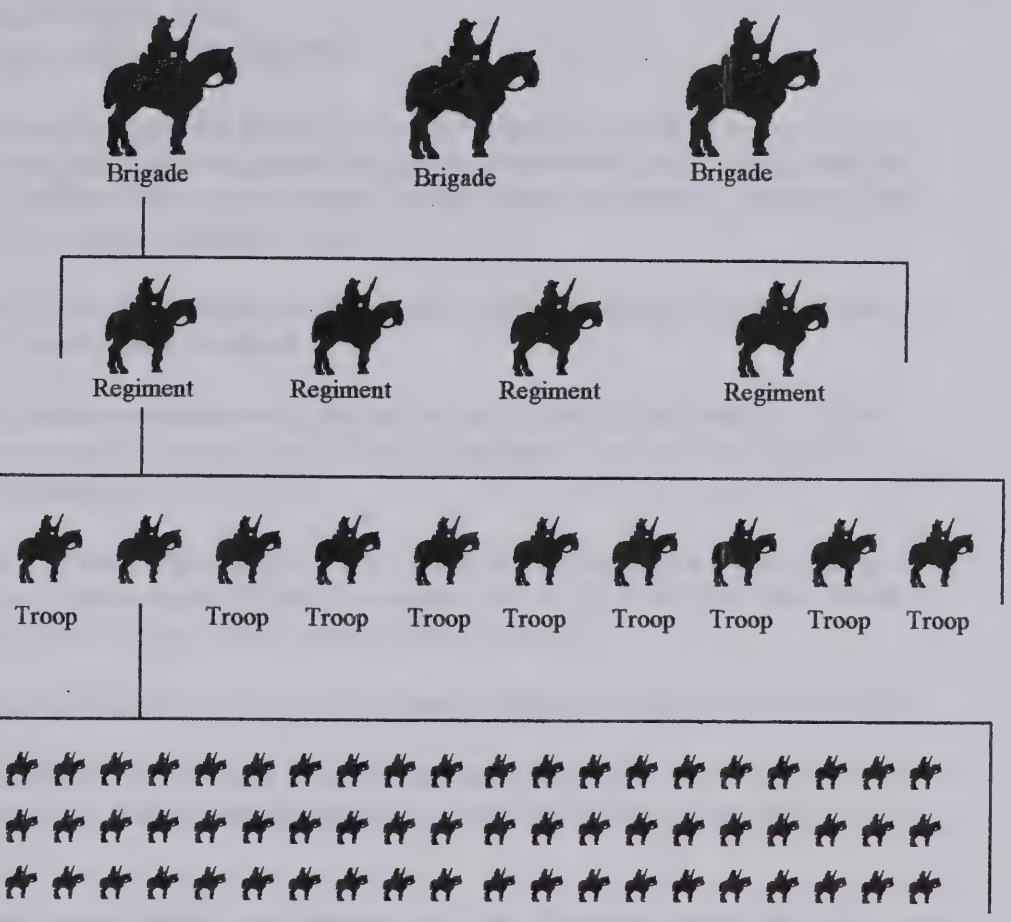
CAVALRY ORGANIZATION

DIVISION
2-5 Brigades
Commanded by
Brigadier or Major General
2,400-18,000 men

BRIGADE
2-5 Regiments
Commanded by
Colonel/Brigadier General
1,200-3,800 men

REGIMENT
Commanded by Colonel
Normally 12 troops
or companies
400-1000 men

TROOP or COMPANY
Commanded by Captain
40-100 men & horses



At Antietam, McClellan's Union cavalry were primarily held in reserve. Lee's Southern horsemen were divided into two wings, each wing guarding a flank of the army.

This Week
Community Newspaper
History Today
Letters describe life in Civil War
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 12:07 PM

A trip in the planning stages for several years led Richard Converse in more directions than he could imagine. Since retirement, he has spent countless hours researching his family history, and now he is even writing a booklet based on letters he discovered last September during a trip to Simsbury, Conn.

He descended from early Worthington and Powell settlers who came from that small north central Connecticut community.

During his trip, he was welcomed and assisted at the Phelps Tavern Museum by its archivist and a docent. He was shown a file of transcribed letters written by Oliver Cromwell Case during the Civil War.

The letters were to Case's sister, Abbie Jane Case. Oliver was 21 years of age, and Abbie was 15. They provide such insight that Converse is writing "A Civil War Story about a Union Soldier's Journey into Battle," to share Case's story.

Case joined the 8th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in September 1861.

The men left Hartford by boat with Annapolis as their destination. Converse points out that serving in the Civil War were 60 men from Connecticut named Case and 200 from Ohio.

The letters sent to sister Abbie were frequent and often filled with uncertainty about how long they might remain in a location or comments about when they would be leaving for the Confederacy, something Case looked forward to.

He encouraged Abbie with her education. After sending love to family members, Oliver closed his letters with "Respect to all inquiring friends."

He describes food given by townspeople -- gingersnaps, some turnips, some apples, and 1,000 loaves of bread. There was a boxed Thanksgiving dinner sent from home. It arrived in mid-December, and the soldiers described the chicken as "old," but he wrote that they appreciated it. He describes rebels with a white flag and riding atop a box car to get a breeze on a hot, hot August day. His regular letters are filled with his observations of the countryside, battles and people.

From Annapolis on Nov. 3, he wrote that he had not enjoyed his life so much as since he had become a soldier. At one point, he describes the tent as being so comfortable that he felt he was living like a king. That was rare, of course.

Case watched a friend die and said it was "the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed." Henry Sexton died a horrific death from jaundice aboard a schooner. This man received no attention from a doctor.

Case describes illnesses of his own. We know that the number of deaths from sickness during the war was staggering.

Oliver Cromwell Case's last letter sent to his sister was dated Aug. 7, 1862. He had served his country for almost a year.

He was killed Sept. 17, 1862 during the battle of Antietam in Maryland, described as the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. His older brothers, Alonzo and Ariel, fighting with the 16th Regiment, learned that only about 10 of the men from the 8th Regiment survived.

The brothers had to wait two days for permission to search for Oliver's body.

In "Recollections of Camp and Prison Life," Alonzo wrote, "The ground for acres and perhaps for miles were (sic) strewn with dead and wounded."

Locating Oliver and seeing the wound to his head suggested he was killed instantly.

The brothers wrapped Oliver in a blanket and pinned identification on him prior to digging his grave. Three months later, their father had Oliver's remains taken to Simsbury for burial.

Richard Converse learned he is a third cousin four times removed from the young man who now occupies his life.

When he develops a curiosity about something or begins a project, he devotes his days and nights to learn as much as possible.

In recent years, Converse, who lives in South Carolina, successfully researched other Case descendants and personally led the effort to get an Ohio Historical marker in Highbanks Metro Park.

It recognizes five Case family men who were members of the Union Land Co., which purchased land in Liberty Township in 1806. He also obtained a Memorial Grave Marker to honor Seth Case, who served in the Revolutionary War in Connecticut but died in Ohio. That marker is in The Liberty Church Cemetery.

Carole Wilhelm is a member of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society.

Carole Wilhelm

Letters From
Oliver C. Case

Oliver Cromwell Carr

Letters

October 20, 1861

To

August 7, 1862

b. December, 1839 - Simsbury, CT

d. September 17, 1862

Antietam, MD

8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry

Organized at Hartford September 21, 1861.

Left State for Annapolis, Md., October 17.

Attached to Parke's Third Brigade, Burnside's Expeditionary Corps, to April, 1862. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Dept. of North Carolina, to July, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1863.

SERVICE.-

Duty at Annapolis, Md., till January 6, 1862.

Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet and Roanoke Island, N.C., January 7-February 8, 1862. Battle of Roanoke Island February 8. At Roanoke Island till March 11.

Moved to New Berne, N.C., March 11-13.

Battle of New Berne March 14.

Operations against Fort Macon March 23-April 26.

Skirmish Fort Macon April 12.

Capture of Fort Macon April 26.

Duty at New Berne till July.

Moved to Morehead City July 2,

thence to Newport News, Va., July 3-5 and duty there till August 1.

Moved to Fredericksburg, Va., August 1-5 and duty there till August 31.

Moved to Brooks' Station, thence to Washington, D.C., August 31-September 3.

Maryland Campaign September-October Frederick, Md., September 12.

Turner's Gap, South Mountain, September 14.

Battle of Antietam September 16-17.

Saved on
plan Thumb
down – OC
case letter for Bill

35 pgs 22,414 words

All letters
Sent to me 8/28/18
Moved to
OC Case Letters

Use Home
To No Spacing
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for Book

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Oliver Cromwell Case Letters
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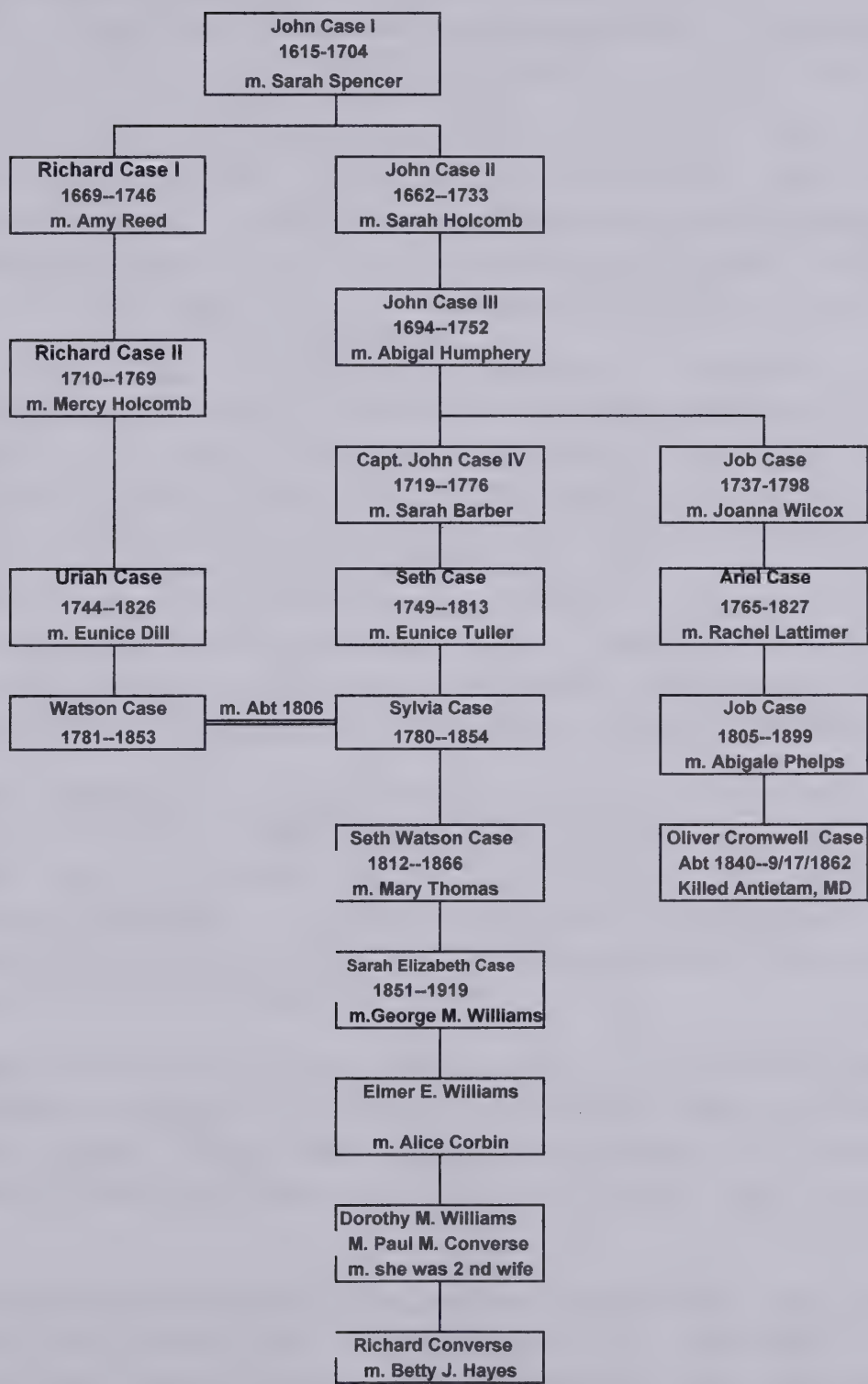
August 7, 1862	In Camp near Fredrickburg, VA	
August 9, 1862	(Add Note To Aug 7 letter)	

1. SE of Newport, NC near Morehead City, NC on the outer banks

Case Families
Ancestry Chart



Two letters written after the Battle of Roanoke Island have great content and rich narrative about events leading up to the fight and the subsequent days: "[On Steamer Chassuer off Roanoke Island, N. C., Feb. 11, 1862]... *We left Hatteras Inlet last Wednesday but owing to the unfavorable blessings of the weather and from the very cautious manner in which we proceeded we did not arrive here until Friday morning when a bombardment of the enemy's fort immediately commenced. The day was clear and warm and it was a splendid sight to see one after another hurl their shell into the fort. It reminds me of a thunder storm where the lighting struck within sight every time. As the fire continued the replies from the fort grew less and less frequent as gun after gun were silenced and before night every gun but one was dismounted.*
Our loss during the day was 4 killed & 12 wounded. At midnight our boys were landed and left standing in the mud until morning when the action commenced. The 24 Mass. & 8th Conn. were held as reserve and were not in. The rebels retreated to their fortifications and did good execution. Our boys tried to turn the entrance but were not successful when Hawkins Zouaves took the lead and scaled the fort and drove the rebels out at the point of the bayonet. The action continued until 2 P. M. when the whole Island was unconditionally surrendered. We took 3000 prisoners, 35 pieces of artillery, 5000 stand of arms besides ammunition, baggage etc. The pieces was all but 5 32 pounders, 1 100 pounder, many of them were rifled.

The soldiers are around picking up prisoners all over the island. They bring in a great many each day. There are five forts strongly fortified upon the island which fell into our hands. We think here it is a big thing. I do not know what will be thought of it north. Our loss is about 50 killed and about 75 wounded, principally from the 10th [Conn.] *& 25th Mass. The prisoners are to be sent to N. Y. as soon as possible...*

I have been sick for about 10 days with fever & ague. I am much better now, shall be well enough in 3 or 4 days and have the promise of being taken ashore today...[I] *have been on board over 6 weeks. It is a pretty tough place for a person that is unwell. The 8th & 4th R. I. are to be left here.*

The fleet expects soon to attack Elizabethtown & New Bern. Our gunboats have gone up to Elizabeth now. The rebels have 7 gunboats which have also gone there. They have given orders to burn them rather than have them fall into our hands. We learn this from a deserter. The rebels burnt

their fort upon the main land the night after the battle. The reason for so doing we can not conjecture as their is no connection between that and the island...the Col. [Russell] *of the 10th* [Conn.] *is killed & the Lieut. Col. of the Zouaves. O. Jennings Wise son of the ex-governor was killed. His last words, 'Oh that I could only kill another d-d Yankee before I die.'...direct Burnside's Coast Division...O. C. Case.*"

John Otto Cornfield—John Banks Blog

JOHN OTTO'S CORNFIELD (REBELS' PERSPECTIVE): In a 40-acre field of head-high corn on Sept. 17, 1862, the 16th Connecticut was battered, many men skedaddling for the rear. (Two deserters fled all the way to England. One deserter's ancestor saw his great-grandfather's photo for the first time on this blog.) Above and below are interactive panoramic images of what that field looks like today. Some of the 16th Connecticut wounded lay in this field for 40 hours, only rescued when Union burial parties found them late in the morning on Friday, Sept. 19. Many of the wounded were taken to about a half-mile away to Otto's barn, where a makeshift field hospital had been set up. Some of the most serious cases were later taken to the German Reformed Church on Sharpsburg's main street.

OTTO'S CORNFIELD (REBELS' PERSPECTIVE II): A.P. Hill's veterans, who quickly marched 17 miles from Harpers Ferry earlier in the day, arrived on the battlefield just in time to save Robert E. Lee's army at Antietam. They struck the extreme left flank of the Union line that included the 4th Rhode Island and the green 16th Connecticut, sending both regiments retreating in chaos. "My company of one hundred men number but twenty eight at roll call this morning," Pvt. William Relyea of the 16th Connecticut wrote his wife on Sept. 19, 1862, two days after the battle. "Many poor fellows bit the dust. I stood alone about fifty feet from the rebel line and fired and I supposed they fired at me, but I happened to notice I was alone and I left to help some of our wounded off. Capt. (Samuel) Brown was wounded and we found him dead today stripped of hat, coat, shoes, and all valuables." (1) The 16th Connecticut monument, dedicated in 1894, can be seen in the far distance.

(1) Relyea, William Henry. Letter book containing copies of letters, 1862-1865, Ms. 72782, Connecticut History Society, Hartford, Conn.

OTTO'S CORNFIELD (UNION PERSPECTIVE): The 16th Connecticut lay in this hollow until advancing into Otto's cornfield ... and disaster at the Battle of Antietam. "About 4 o'clock we were marched over a hill, and down into a hollow, and lay down," a private in the 16th wrote. "We were in this situation about an hour, the shells from both batteries were playing over us. One man in our company lying just behind me was struck by a piece of shell. Cap't Manross was killed while we lay there. We marched from here up to a [Otto's] cornfield."

http://john-banks.blogspot.com/2013/05/antietam-panoramas-john-ottos-40-acre.html

Camp near Jamaica, L.I.
Oct. 20th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Taking the first leisure time I take this opportunity of writing home to you to let you know that I am safe and sound. We had a very pleasant time going down the river cheering and being cheered continually.

We were in ignorance as to our destination; some saying we were destined for one place, some another. Our quarters, that is Co. A's, were in the gangway forward of the shaft. We spread our beds all over the floor and bunked in like a mess of pigs; some were in the water shoe deep. I managed to get a dry place and with my knapsack for a pillow slept soundly for about two hours when I heard my name called loud enough to start any living person to stand guard for an hour over our traps (?) and guns.

I was relieved about 12 and ½ o'clock but did not get much sleep after that. About four o'clock New York could be seen through the fog but we kept on past N. Y. Brooklyn and at six o'clock arrived off Staten Island and lay there until the Granite State, which was at N. Y. came up. We then landed into shore. Then commenced a great rush for knapsacks, haversacks etc. which was kept up for an hour but no signs of getting off. We stood for two or three hours with our knapsacks on when one by one they commenced to drop off and by nine o'clock they were all lying in piles again. There was strict guard kept so we could not get off the boat. A little after nine the horses which had been taken off when we first landed were brought back & the steamers were brought under way for we knew not where. We again passed N. Y. and had a splendid view of its shipping, and such steam whistling and cheering I have seldom heard. We landed at Hunter's Point, L. I. about three o'clock P. M. A part of the regiment took the cars immediately but our company with others waited with our knapsacks on for 2 or 3 hours expecting every moment the train to carry us off. All things must have an end and so did our waiting.

Source:
Phelps Tavern
and Museum
Simsbury, CT
Nov, 2009

The first night we slept on the ground with the sky for a covering. There was a very heavy dew and thick fog. Our blankets were very wet and our guns covered with rust. We scoured guns all the forenoon and it rained all the afternoon so we did not progress very fast; towards night we commenced to pitch our tents but it rained as hard as it could pour before we got through. We cut cedar boughs (of which there is an abundance) for our beds and lay quite comfortable. We have been washing all the forenoon, cleaning guns, drying clothes, etc. Going to church this afternoon. I have seen Benejah today.

Simsbury boys are all well. We know not how long we shall stay here. My love to all.

Direct

O. C. Case Co. A. 8 Regt.

care Capt. Burpee, Jamaica,

L. I.

Truly Your Brother

O. C. Case

10/20/1961

Camp Buckingham 1861
Jamaica, L. I. Oct 28th

5

Dear Sister,

Having waited impatiently for an answer to my letter of the 21st and receiving none, I again take my pen in hand to inscribe a few lines to you hoping this time at least you will not neglect to answer immediately upon receiving this; I have just received a letter from Ariel saying, among other things, that Grandmother is not was well, and that Jos. R. Toy is about getting up a military company. We are very pleasantly situated, much more so than at Hartford, the ground being slightly sloping to the south making it quite dry and pleasant with the exception that it is a very windy location outside of the camp streets so there is not much danger of getting asleep on guard although we have a large camp fire burning continually. I do not think we burned less than two solid cords of hard seasoned wood last night. The wind blew a perfect hurricane but we made a pile of wood upon three of the fires (effectually breaking the wind) having about fifteen cords in the piles. We set the wood up endways and crossways and such a fire you do not often see; when were released from guard we got inside and spread our blankets over us, and were soon asleep but when we woke up we were nearly baked, the smoke and cinders nearly suffocating us, but that was better than being in the wind. I had my blouse & overcoat on and both blankets around me. I turned my overcoat cape over my ears so upon the whole I was very comfortable walking my beat two hours, then lying before the fire for nearly four hours more. Most of the Regiment went to church yesterday with the Officers but as I was on guard, of course I had to stay in camp. We have an excellent chaplain – he is an eloquent preacher as well as a very social and agreeable man – and I believe is universally liked by the men. Jamaica is one of the pleasantest places I ever saw. It is situated ½ mile from camp. The people are very familiar (much more so than Conn. people) and I should also say generous and hospitable.

They gave our Regt. Over a thousand loaves of bread last week besides giving us many apples and welcoming to their houses all who are so fortunate as to get out side of the guard. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Lieut. March arrived in town day before yesterday. Lieut. accompanied them to Brooklyn & back yesterday. Mrs Marsh is expecting to stay until the Regt. leaves.

Camp Buckingham 1861
Jamaica, L. I. Oct 28th

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There is a camp rumor that we shall leave Thursday but I do not credit it. The Regt. are now undergoing a thorough examination. The men are not troubled with clothes while undergoing this examination.

Our company will probably be examined tomorrow or next day and there is no knowing how many will be thrown out and no one will know until they get through. One of our corporals has been reduced to the ranks and one month's pay forfeited for getting drunk. I have been doing my washing the forenoon. I get my clothes in, in good order & I think I will make a good washerwoman.

My love to Grandmother; hope she is not going to be sick every day. Love to all.

Simsbury boys all well. See Benejah every day, sometimes two or three times a day.

From your affectionate Brother,

Oliver

Direct as I wrote you before

10/29/1861

Camp Buckingham
Jamaica, L. I.
Oct 31st

Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter yesterday, and I can assure you that I read it with the greatest pleasure. I had begun to think that you had forgotten me as I had written home twice – once as I arrived (& had waited impatiently for an answer), and once since I have received two from Ariel and I concluded from what he wrote that you had not received mine.

Our camp is full over rumors as to when we shall leave, some saying confidently that we shall leave tomorrow, another Saturday. While not (?) willing to wager $5.00 that we will not leave in three weeks, my opinion is that we shall not leave this week or until the tenth regiment arrives which we are expecting very soon.

I was up to Jamaica last night to hear a lecture delivered by our chaplain; it was one of the best that I ever heard. I think it was superior to Dr. Holland's. It was delivered for the benefit of the regiment, the money to be appropriated towards purchasing a library for them.

We are treated much better here than in Connecticut by the citizens. They think there is nothing to good for the soldiers. We are treated with respect whereever we go, and apples and turnips are free to us, that is if we can run the guard or can get passed off, which is not often.

There is a house upon the corner of the camp, and the man gives the regiment permission to get all the turnips we are a mind to pull, perhaps we do not improve the priveledge, but if you looked in the cook's boiler just before dinner you would not think so.

I expected to go upon knapsack drill this morning for not being back to roll call last night. I was so much taken with the lecture that I did not think about the time until it was nearly through, when I asked a person what time it was and he said ¼ past nine, it was no use then to start for camp as it was after roll call, I stayed around until about 11 O'clock and then went back to camp and ran the guard. I have heard nothing about it this morning and some of the boys said my name was not called. I spoke to the Capt. about

Camp Buckingham
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We are treated much better here than in Connecticut by the citizens. They think there is nothing to good for the soldiers. We are treated with respect whereever we go, and apples and turnips are free to us, that is if we can run the guard or can get passed off, which is not often.

There is a house upon the corner of the camp, and the man gives the regiment permission to get all the turnips we are a mind to pull, perhaps we do not improve the priveledge, but if you looked in the cook's boiler just before dinner you would not think so.

I expected to go upon knapsack drill this morning for not being back to roll call last night. I was so much taken with the lecture that I did not think about the time until it was nearly through, when I asked a person what time it was and he said ¼ past nine, it was no use then to start for camp as it was after roll call, I stayed around until about 11 O'clock and then went back to camp and ran the guard. I have heard nothing about it this morning and some of the boys said my name was not called. I spoke to the Capt. about

going, he said if I could find the Lieut. and get off, it was alright. I could not find him, but Capt Beuth was the officer of the day and he let me off on his own responsibility.

News here is scarce as hens teeth so you must not blame me for not writing any. The whole regiment has been examined, we had to march in before the Dr. and our Capt minus all our clothes and be subject to a thorough examination; he questioned me pretty close about that breaking out on my shoulders – there is hardly anything left but the scars. I guess that if he had seen it two months ago I would have gotten thrown overboard, but I told him it was nothing but a little breaking out and had not been there a great while. I do not know how many there is thrown out of our company; some have 8 or 10 thrown out but I think that there will not be but 2 or 3 out of ours but I do not know.

Excuse the composition of this letter, but there are 2 or 3 in our tent playing on their violins, and it is full of spectators. I am on later guard today (that is fetching water) so that I have considerable time for myself. I am rejoiced to hear that Simsbury is making and is going to get up a company. Why did they not do it before? How does grandmother do? Benejah is in the tent while I am writing. Simsbury folks all well. Hall is afraid he shall be thrown out on account of some scars upon his legs. He does not tell them at this time he examines them, but you can generally tell by the questions he asks.

I wish you would send me one dollar, postage stamps would be handy anyway. I had some things to buy in H(artford?) and here that I could not do without, paper, satchel, book and some other things; besides when we came here for the first day or two we did not get much to eat and spent some for victuals, but we have more to eat now than we know what to do with. I spent some money foolishly on some pies and cakes. Write soon and give me all the news. Love to all.

Yours with best wishes

Casie

Goodbye for the present.

10/31/1861

Perryville, Md.
Nov. 3rd, 1861

Dear Sister,

Having a few leisure moments of spare time I thought I could improve them no better than by writing to you. I presume that Mrs. Thompson has ere this informed you how she left us at Hunter's Point. We stayed there in the depot till 8 o'clock and then went aboard the boat for South Amboy; it was raining very hard at the time. The whole of us (1000) were stowed into a steamer that was not large enough to accomadate more than half that number; every available niche of room was occupied, many of us lying with our heads upon each other.

We were told that it would take us about two hours to reach our destination but after we had been on board one hour we were, that is the boat was, hauled up to Pier No. 1 N. River to wait for the storm to abate. We lay there till one o'clock from where we sailed and reached S. A. in safety. At four o'clock we left the boat and a jollier, happier, set you never saw. We were got upon the cars with but little delay and tried to start for Philadelphia which was not so easy a job as you might imagine as we had on 19 passenger cars, but with the help of another engine we got under way and arrived safely at ½ after eleven o'clock where we had a huge dinner and if anyone ever did justice to a dinner, we did to that. I think I never tasted anything so good in my life. We stayed there until nearly five talking and shaking hands with everyone. After we were aboard of the cars, while they were passing through the city (they did not go faster than a person could walk) we were upon the platform, or with our arms out the window shaking hands and bidding everyone Goodbye. We were 27 cars in all, 19 with passengers, the rest with horses and baggage. Eleven car couplings broke at different places before we reached this place. We arrived here not far from midnight and stretched ourselves in the depot as best we might expecting to be called to fall in to march to the boat at any moment. I never slept better in my life than I did last night; we were packed in pretty close though. We had some crackers delivered out to us this morning, and they dissappeared very rapidly, many not having eaten anything since yesterday noon.

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I never saw men in better spirits than we are at present. We are confined in and about the depot with a guard, some different from what we are used to having, that is much more strict.

There is regiment emcamped near here beside our camp containing 900 trunks (?) and 900 horses. This place is situated upon the NE bank of the Susquehannah, upon the Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia RR about thirty miles from the former place. There is a steam ferry boat which carries over a whole train of cars at once so there is no change of cars at this place for the south. We expect to leave on the boat every minute.

P. S. There is great excitement and cries of "fall in"; almost everyone is strapping on their knapsack. I've just asked the Capt. Whether I shall put mine on he says "no, I have had no order and you can finish your letter". Annapolis we suppose to be our destination. Simsbury boys all well. I have seen them all today. My paper was wet on the boat. I am writing standing amid a great deal of noise.

Love to all,

O. C. Case

11/3/1861

Camp Hicks

Annapolis Nov 11th, 1861

Dear Sister,

I received yours of the 3rd enclosing stamps Saturday and I also received yours of the 31st forwarded from Jamaica and one of the 8th last night so I now have three letters from you since I last wrote. I received one from Ariel Saturday together with two papers. I answered Ariel's Sunday and as I had written to Alonzo the day before I thought I would wait until today before I answered your three. The last letter I wrote you was mailed Perryville; Did you get it? As to the number of letters I have received from you I cannot now tell as I lent my portfolio to Benejah; when he had fifnished using it he handed it to Capt. Burpee; the Capt. says he handed it to someone to give to me, and that is the last he cares about it. I had my paper, envelopes, and other "fixins" in it but thanks for the postage stamps; with them I bought some more. We had a very pleasant trip down the Chesapeake arriving at Annapolis Tuesday night where we were quartered in a college where we stayed two nights and one day. Thursday we marched for camp, pitched tents and stayed overnight. It is situated one and one half miles from the city, upon an elevated piece of ground, near the camp of the 10th Conn, 25th and 27th Mass, 51st N.Y. and a N.H. regiment. Friday about 11:30 as I had my gun all taken to pieces, I heard my name called and was told (by Corp Ellwood from instructions from Lieut. Hoyt) to pack my knapsack and take all my traps(?) to report for special duty to be gone perhaps one day or perhaps three weeks and report at ½ after twelve. You can guess I had to scratch around some to get my things packed, my gun put together and dinner eaten and be ready in time. There were nine privates and one corporal from each Company and three Sergeants and three Lieutenants making by and all one hundred six men. When they came to inspect arms there were a few guns that were a little rusty, the owners of those guns were thrown out, the Lieutenants saying they wanted none that were not sure every time, but I thought that the owners did not feel very bad about it. The general belief was that we were going on picked duty somewhere. We marched to the city, halted before an old brick building and were marched in and told that those were to be our quarters. The duty assigned to us was to patrol the city in squads of ten, arresting all soldiers without a pass or any drunken or disorderly ones. Our quarters are a

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large room with a large old fashioned fireplace, with benches all round the outside and gas (light?) In the room where the officers stay there are some old revolutionary relics consisting of bayonets, long hooked swords and other things. In the room where we are quartered are some portraits of the first settlers. We are on duty 4 hours and off 8.

The relief that I am in is on from 11 to 3 night and day. When we are not out on duty we go when and where we have a mind to! So you perceive that we are priviledged characters. This city in north could hardly get the attention of a village; there is not a name to a street or number on a door in the city; the streets are overgrown with grass and overrun with rubbish except the ones that lead to the camp, those are traveled by army wagons.

The houses are one and two stories high but are all old, some were very good ones in their day but that was long ago. I do not think there is twenty signs in the city and doubt whether there is a store that does as much business as Mr. Wilcox's in the place. There are no three houses in a row in the streets and many look like hogpens. I do not believe there has been ten houses built in as many years, in fact, it looks like a city one hundred years old without any improvements having been made.

There are a few churches that are nice in the inside and they are the only nice looking buildings there are here, except the Capital, but more of this another time. It is stated that we are put out of Burnside's brigade and probably we shall be left to guard the city. Of course we are much gratified at the southern news.

About those mittens, I do not see how I can use them because in going through the manuel of arms, we have to use our fingers. I am sorry it is so as you have been to the trouble of knitting them for me. I shall want a pair of gloves by and by, but you need not trouble yourself about them. If you ever at any future time should wish to send me anything you can forward it by express. I hope mother is not much hurt by her fall but I wish you would write how she is as I will think of her until I hear again. Alonzo's baby sick again. What appears to be the matter? I do not want you to worry about me at any time as there has not been a night since I enlisted but what I have slept well except when on duty I usually keep awake. Simsbury boys all well the last time I saw them. There is a report in or rather from camp that we are all going in the brigade. I am wholly indifferent as to whether we go or stay. We have the best of quarters here, but come to

11/31/1861

think I guess I should like to see more of "Dixie Land". I never enjoyed myself better in my life than I have since I enlisted. I should like to know what Sam (?) finds so disagreeable in being a soldier. We are daily looking for the particulars of the taking of Port Royal and I presume ere this reaches you full particulars will have been received. When you see Ariel tell him to let you see my last letter, the same with Alonzo. How is Joe's Co. getting along?

I have not been to camp since I received your letter. When I do I will try to inquire out Sylvanus Wilcox. Love to grandmother, Father and Mother. Respects to all inquiring friends.

Yours every affectionately,

O. C. Case

11/3/1861

Annapolis Nov. 13th, 1861

Dear Sister,

I received your favor of the 11th this evening, and having as much leisure now as I shall have I hasten to reply. I can assure you that your letter was read with much interest and pleasure by your absent brother. I am much rejoiced to hear that mother has received no serious injury from her fall, and hope she will not suffer much inconvenience therby. I am very thankful for the mittens as they will come in play (?) in a short time. In my last I spoke about mittens not answering the purpose, but I did not know you had made them with a finger in them. They are just the thing and better than gloves.

I attended colored church Sunday and if there was ever enthusiasm in any place, there was there. Whilst the minister was preaching there was much shouting and clapping of hands. His subject was the readiness of Christ to receive all sinners; he was quite eloquent, but he handled the subject different from what we usually hear it, making some of the most singular comparisons that I ever heard. After the sermon there was delivered such prayers accompanied by such yelling and groaning as you never heard, but the climax was not reached until they commenced to sing, each one singing to suit him or herself using same repitition (to suit his taste) after every line. The other words appeared to be composed for the occassion, they kept time by snapping fingers, stamping, rocking, their bodies too and fro. Every little while such unearthly shouts were made that it really reminded me of a mad house. There was a little negro sitting by the side of me, and seeing that I was pleased said, "You ought to hear them, some nights they make a heap more noise than tonight, sometimes they knock down the stove by their stamping."

There are four (3?) churches besides the colored one in the place, one Catholic, one Methodist, and one Presbyterian. The Catholic is a new church commenced two years since. It is splendid upon the inside, the roof being composed of three arches each one being supported by many pillars. Around the alter it is furnished in extravagant style, but the body of the church is not yet finished. It has a chime of bells, the first I ever heard. The Methodist is a nice church commenced two years since but is not done off upon the inside. The Episcopal looks like an old one with a new wing, but looks very neat and pretty upon the inside. The Court House is furnished in fine style upon the inside but is rather of an ancient looking building upon the outside. Every principal street

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(if any can be called principal) centers at the state house and it is nothing uncommon for a soldier or officer to inquire the way of the patrols saying whereever the go they always come to the state house.

I get cheated out of going to church in the daytime because our relief is on from 11 to 3 o'clock, but we have the evenings. You may think that I am rather explicit in describing the public buildings, but I do this in want of other news. We have fun occasionally with some drunken soldiers or some tight Secessionist for I can assure you no sober man will talk in that way. About papers: I receive papers everyday or two from Ariel, now as long as I receive them from him of course I shall not want any, but you should make an arrangement to send a paper regularly, I should like the "Weekly Press" as well as any, as it contains the local news as well as the other. Tell grandmother that I have enough to eat, and rest as well as at home, that it is not as hard work as working on the farm and besides I have the priveledge of going when and where I have a mind to, only be ready to march with the patrol once a day and once a night. I am rejoiced to hear that she is betting better. Give her my best wishes. I am surprised to hear that neither Phil nor John have enlisted. Has Father got his crops all in? How is the weather with you? It is as warm as summer here except the nights which are chilly but I have seen no frost here yet.

I receive letters from Ariel every week, but he has not mentioned anything about Mrs. Thompson's going to Washington. I can hardly credit it. I came from the camp last Friday and have received six letters and six papers in that time so you see I am kept quite well posted about things in "Old Conn", but do not on that account stop writing, but excuse if I sometimes delay writing in answer. The band for the Conn. 10th arrived here today. The brigade will probably leave in the course of a week whether with or without our regiment we know not, and probably shall not until the day they leave. The war news is cheering and our boys will feel slighted if they do not go south with the brigade and share in their glory. I have not been to camp for three days. The boys of your acquantaince were all well then and I presume that they are now. Give my love to all inquiring friends. Excuse my writing as I can't follow lines by gas light. We have cartridges given out but cannot load yet.

Your Brother,

O. C. Case

Write Soon

11/13/1861

Camp Burnside
Annapolis
Nov. 28th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Not having heard from you for over a week and thinking that your letters must either have been miscarried or that you were away from home or possibly sick, I have taken this opportuonity of writing another letter hoping that the receipt of this may have the effect to induce same of you to write in reply. I received a letter from Alonzo last Friday and also received one from Ariel Thursday. I wrote to Ariel that Duane Brown and H. D. Sexton (?) were sick at the hospital. I went to see them as soom as I heard of it, but could not get in where they were, but I looked in and saw their hall. I talked with one of Sexton's friends who told me he was much better and expected to be around before long. The next day I succeeded in getting in where they were for a few moments. Brown is getting better also. Sexton was asleep. I heard from them Friday and presume by this time they are around. I should go to see them everyday but I am tired after patrolling the city eight hours a day besides keeping my gun clean. The camp is situated 1 ½ miles from our quarters and it is seldom that I can get into the hospital when I get there. I am particular in writing about this because you hear such exaggerated accounts and reports about everything that happens here. We are fast filling up here with soldiers, 1200 calvary and 800 zouaves having arrived within the last week. Part of the Calvary have left for Fortress Monroe and others are expecting to leave soon. We shall probably leave in the course of 2 weeks but may leave any day, or we may stay 6 weeks. We have comparitively quiet times on patrol. We take up but four or five daily and those are mostly sober. We have spilled several casks of liquor to say nothing of jugs, demijohns, and bottles, which we have thrown out. Major Hathaway arrived here yesterday from Washington. He left on the 3PM. train for the north. I saw him a short time before he started. He told me that our people were well, and that he was going to be at L. G. Goodrich's for Thanksgiving. He says he shall be here again two weeks if we do not leave before that time; he thinks that Lucius (?) may come with him. I wear my mittens every night and find them very comfortable too. Those gloves I received from Ariel, but he says I can thank you for them also, as father paid for them. I have not worn them yet

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but think that they will be very warm. It has been rumored that we shall spend the winter here but the last rumor is that the 51st N.Y. is the one to be left. If they stay, I guess the citizens will get enough of the soldiers before winter is over for they are the hardest set of boys that are encamped here (not excepting the zouaves which are bad enough in a conscience(?)). Nine tenths of the arrests we make are of that 51st regiment. Our chaplain preached to us in our quarters this morning. He delivered an excellent discourse from John 18th (chapter) 38th (verse) "What is truth". He is a very talented man and is very familiar with the soldiers. He is liked very much by them all.

We are treated with much respect by the citizens and they often send in some shortcakes, gingersnaps, cookies etc; of course only a bite for each but enough to know that we have their good will. If they found out that any of our number are complaining they will send in a cup of tea, biscuit and butter, and other little knickknacks to them. When we first came here they were very shy of us always avoiding us if possible, but now they are quite familiar with us at almost anytime. The soldiers that had been here before were a pretty rough set. It was reported that the people of this place had sent to Gen. Burnside requesting him to let us stay here this winter. I do not know whether it is true or not. We have been expecting to be paid off ever since we came from Jamaica but have not got it yet. The time now set is next Thursday when we may be paid and then again we may not. Where are you expecting to go to school this winter? I see by the Hartford papers that Joe R. Toy has gone into camp. Is it at Hartford or New Haven? I have forgotten. Alonzo says they have got their corn all into the barn. I suppose you have all your corn and other crops before this time, have you not? There is some corn out here but it is pretty much all gathered. The weather is quite cold so that it froze a little last night. We have much wet weather but thanks to our rubber blankets we keep dry. The general impression here is that the war will not last more than six months at fartherest; but I do not believe that it is to be finished so soon; perhaps it may not last more than a year or a year and a half but that is as soon as I expect it will be ended. Of course we do not care how soon we go south notwithstanding we have good quarters here and much more freedom than we shall have there. News is scarce here as you will see by reading my letter. Do you ever see Georgie and Elsworth? I hope they enjoy themselves north.

11/28/1861

How is grandmother? Give her my best respects. I shall not write again until I get paid off as I shall have used up all the stamps you sent me in buying paper, writing letters and for a few other notions that I could not well do without; but we shall probably be paid off this week so that it will make no difference. I have just stopped writing to get some Ginger snaps that a negro woman is giving to the boys. They are excellent. Respects to all inquiring friends and ablige (?).

Your Brother, Oliver

11/28/1861

Annapolis Dec 10th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Your letter of the (?) I received Thursday evening the 5th at 9 o'clock PM. I was not feeling very well at that time and had just finished writing three letters in the Lieut's tent. The next day I was excused from drill by the surgeon and about noon was taken with a chill and went to the hospital where I have had as good accomidations as could be, good beds and clothes, and every thing as comfortable as at home. I am now well except weak and as it is a very pleasant day the nurse let me walk out a little while. It is as warm as summer. Our company are all out target shooting and Lieut. Marsh has your letter in his charge and I can hardly remember anything that there is in it. I have given up expecting the box. I shall write again in a day or two at furthest. Respects to all.

Your ever affectionate brother,

O. C. Case

Annapolis Dec 10th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Your letter of the (?) I received Thursday evening the 5th at 9 o'clock PM. I was not feeling very well at that time and had just finished writing three letters in the Lieut's tent. The next day I was excused from drill by the surgeon and about noon was taken with a chill and went to the hospital where I have had as good accomidations as could be, good beds and clothes, and every thing as comfortable as at home. I am now well except weak and as it is a very pleasant day the nurse let me walk out a little while. It is as warm as summer. Our company are all out target shooting and Lieut. Marsh has your letter in his charge and I can hardly remember anything that there is in it. I have given up expecting the box. I shall write again in a day or two at furthest. Respects to all.

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11/28/1861

Annapolis

Dec. 13th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 10th I received last evening after I had retired and read it this morning. I was much surprised to think that you had not heard from me for so long a time as I have written every few days, perhaps not as often as when upon patrol but certainly twice a week with the exception of last week when I did not write but once. I received yours of the 1st a week this evening just at bed time. I did not feel well that night and being chilly the next day I went to the hospital, it being very comfortable there. It is supplied with good bedding, two good stoves, a tight floor and is almost as comfortable as it would be at home. I was discharged from there yesterday morning. I think you are very foolish to worry about me if you do not fail to receive letters from me regular for the mails are very irregular. Many think that a good part of the missing letters never leave the city; some think that they never get into the post office. I see by your last letter that you are attending school in Weatogue, Mary A. Weston (?) teacher. That is what I should have advised you to do, so as to review the new books that they have now in the town of S(imsbury) as well as to continue your studies in Algebra and Latin or, if not, in French. If you want money to buy books take what I have in the bank or any other of mine and use it. I shall probably send home about $30.00 the first of January. That you can have.

The patrol went down town again Wednesday. I regret that I was not able to go down with them but I presume I shall have a chance yet for I hear that some of them want to come back. It is as hard work as we have but we are not confined as much. It is understood that when the orderly gets his discharge the Captain will resign.

There is some speculation as to who will be our 2nd Lieutenant. Some of the Sergeants are making big expectations which I guess will end in expectations for they cannot all be Lieutenants. Some say that the Captain is calculating to get the orderly into that position but that will never work here because he is <u>about played out.</u> I do not remember if I ever wrote you in reply to you asking about Barnum (?). He was pretty small potatoes anyway. All that was the matter with him was that he was "<u>scared</u>" nearly to death and he feigned sickness that he might get a discharge. He was discharged in

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Jamaica, for a milk and water man is no good in the army. Brown does not get very smart yet. He has been discharged from the hospital for nearly two weeks but he is not smart enough to do duty yet. It would do him a great deal of good if his folks would write to him oftener. He has written home more than double the number he has received. I wish if you see any of them you would speak to them about it. They do not think with how much interest anything from home is read here where we cannot get off anywhere to see people. Benejah is here in the tent while I am writing. He has been over here to shirk drill this morning. I have given up expecting my box. I suppose they are obliged to pay for it, that is, if you took a receipt for it. I think if you send the receipt to me I can collect it here and perhaps you can there. It looks now as if we should not leave here for some time to come but we cannot tell; we are liable to leave here any moment, that is to have marching orders any day. Ariel writes me that C. E. Carr (?), our ex-Lieutenant was fined $5.00 for getting drunk and that he has taken $12.00 from a drawer (?). Love and respects to all.

Your ever affectionate Write soon.

Brother O. C. Case

12/13/1861

Annapolis Dec 15th 1861

Dear Brother

I rec'd the long expected box of Thanksgiving dinner yesterday the 14th of Dec. Of course every thing with the exception of the walnuts & Chestnuts (which we are feasting upon today) are spoiled They are nice & we are enjoying them ~~to the utter~~ with a will. I write this too you thinking that perhaps you can get the pay for the expressage returned to you. I forgot to mention that there was a few apples that were not decayed but most of them were gone in. It did me good to look at the chicken pie ~~tacked~~ Wacked chicken pudding &c&c if they were mouldy.

Okay. I am now just well enough to be upon duty. I have not done anything before for some time but now I am as smart as ever. Rumor that the negroes have burnt Charleston. Good

Remember me to all enquiring friends. Excuse writing as my hand trembles.

From your Brother

C C Cose

To A H Cose Esq
Hartford Conn

Al. Thomas one of my tent mates who opened the box says write "That I tasted of every thing in the box & it was all very nice but getting rather old" I tasted of a little piece of the chicken pie which was quite nice. The dishes will be very handy for us to use. Broatch wishes to be remembered to you. He is sleeping with us now.

Mrs W P Marsh arrived at camp yesterday. Corporal Porter brother has been helping the Lieut flour over his tent & fix it up so that it would be in good style when his wife arrived. Lieut Hoyt is with the patrol so that Lieut Marsh has got every thing his own way. Corporal Porter has been sick a long time with camp fever. He is improving slowly but has a hard cough. It will be a long time before he fully recovers. His brother has been here nearly a week & is going to stay untill he gets well or is discharged. I see by the Hartford papers that we are expected to leave soon but we hear nothing about it here. We had brigade review Friday & division inspection yesterday. In the former there was 2 regiments in the latter 11. It is said that Col. Harland wants to spend the winter here & Gov Hicks is using his influence to have us stay & many think that between them both we shall make out to spend the winter here. I receive Hartford papers nearly every

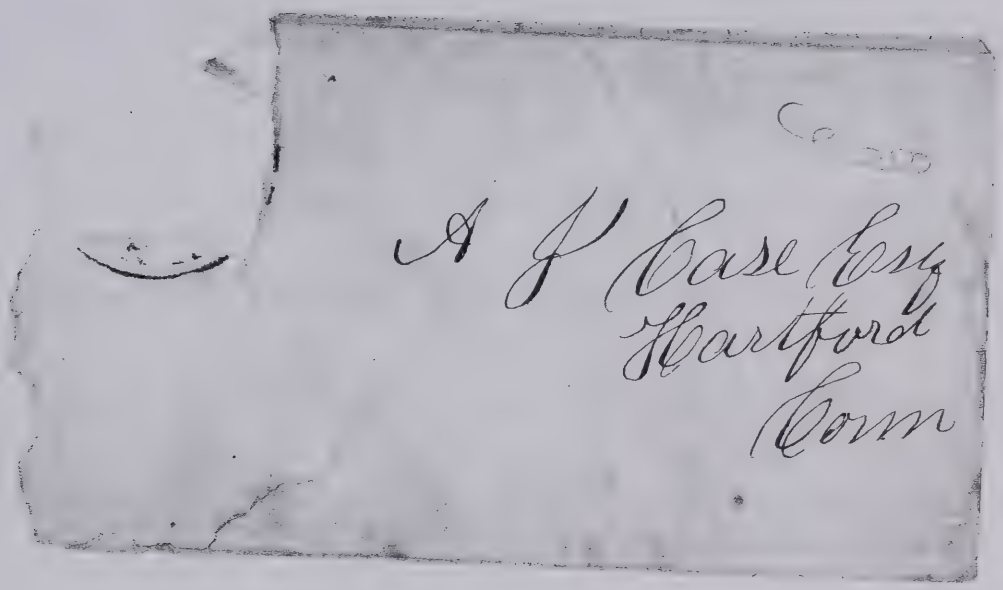
Annapolis

Dec. 16th 1861

Dear Sister,

As you complain that you do not hear from me often I take this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you so that if perchance other letters do not reach their destination in due time some at least may. I received the long expected Thanksgiving dinner Saturday. The chicken looked rather old although I tasted a few pieces near the inside that were good. The walnuts, chestnuts and some of the apples were nice and we have been having quite a feast. A. H. Thomas, a tent mate that opened the box, says "tell your folks that I tasted of everything that there was in the box and found it very nice only getting rather old." The pudding and Chickenpie looked as if they were good in their day but their flavor was rather strong when they opened the box. Mrs. Lieutenant Marsh arrived here Saturday and is going to stay as long as we do. Lieut. Hoyt is down town upon patrol and Lieut. Marsh, with the assistance of Corp. Porter's brother, has floored the ten and made it quite comfortable to receive his wife. Corp. Porter, a splendid young fellow, has been sick for the last three or four weeks with camp fever. It has been a pretty hard run with him but I think he is getting better, although he has a very hard cough. His brother has been here about a week and is expecting to stay until he gets strong enough to be moved when he expects to take him home. I am afraid that his cough is not going to be so easily got rid of. I suppose that we shall leave here between now and the first of January or, if not, by the 10th. Henry D Sexton sends his best respects to my mother. This is a mistake "He wishes to be remembered to her." I suppose it amounts to the same but I wish to be exact.

Charleston Burnt. Hurrah for that. England and France are a going to acknowledge the independence of the Southern Confederacy. All right, we can whip them all. Weather very pleasant, much like June. I received a letter from Ariel today trying to cheer me up. Lieutenant Marsh wrote to him that I had gone to the hospital with an attack of fever and ague. I had only two good shakes and they gave me spirits of turpentine and broke it up. I had to take quinine for three or four days and then was discharged as well as ever. That was all that my sickness amounted to. Brown feels quite down spirited because he does not get a letter. He watches the letters as they are


A J Case Esq
Hartford
Conn

distributed each day and as some, not all of us, receive some almost everyday and he does not, it makes him feel as if he was forgotten. If you see any of his folks just remind them of it.

Remember me to all.

Yours,

O. C. Case

17/16/186

Annapolis, Maryland
Tuesday, Dec. 17th , 1861

Dear Sister,

I have just received a carpet bag of goodies per L. G. Goodrich and I can assure you if ever anything was welcome, that was. The things were good, better, best. Those nutcakes tasted like home and were better (?) (?). The cranberries, cider and wine were just what I wanted at the present time. In fact, everything hit just the spot. A man that would not be a soldier and have such a living must be beside himself. I have been drilling two days since I was sick and now I am as well as ever.

Mrs. Lieut. Marsh offers to mend any clothes for the soldiers that they wish. I think she may have some sewing for a day or two. The orderly is here as yet although he does no duty. Some say his father is going when he goes. I think there is no doubt but that he will resign before we leave here but when I know not. Of course there is a good deal of speculation as to who will be 2nd Lieut. I think the sergeants are looking toward it but some one of them must be disappointed. We of course all have our preferences but time only will determine who has succeeded in getting the post.

I have just been sent to see the Sheriff and the Major off. I never saw L. G(oodrich) as sociable before. He had been one to the 10th Regt. to see the boys; says they are all in the best of spirits. There is a report that our Lieut. Col. is soon to resign,. I hope it is true for he does not now, nor ever did and I think never will learn about the military. He is the laughing stock of the whole brigade when he tries to drill the Regt. There are very few orders that he can give correctly. If our Col. Should get the post of Brig. Gen. and our Lieut. Col. resign, the command would devolve upon the Major, who is a thorough bred military man as well as a perfect gentleman. He is around camp everyday speaking to any of the boys and makes himself familiar with everyone; at the same time he is a strict disciplinarian. The boys will go through anything with him to lead them. When we were at Perryville he slept upon the depot floor with the rest of us while the other officers were sleeping at the hotel.

I intend to write at least three times in two weeks but if I do not, I do not want you to think I am sick. Benjah is in our tent writing; he says "Gavette cannot be hired to enlist", I reckon that you will have studies a plenty this winter although French will not

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come very hard if you understand Latin pretty well. I was very glad to receive a letter from Cousin Mary. Remember me to Aaron. Give my respects to Grandmother, Cousin Mary, and all other inquiring friends.

Your Brother,

Oliver

12/17/1861

Annapolis Dec. 21st, 1861

Dear Sister,

I again take my pen in hand to address a few lines to you. The boys are nearly all gone gathering evergreens to trim the streets as Gen. Burnside is going to inspect the camp today. Gen. Burnside reviewed the whole division yesterday consisting of 12,000 men. We were reviewed the day before by the Brigadiers so that by all appearances we shall leave for "Dixie" before many weeks. The 11th Conn. arrived yesterday and went to camp above us near the 10th. They were a very good looking Regt. indeed. I did not see anyone in the ranks that I knew. The transports and steamers are lying in the bay ready to carry us at anytime that we get the orders. The patrol have returned from downtown and the 51st Penn. have taken their place. Albert, the Lieut's waiter, came back with the 11th. I would not be surprised if he took his old position as waiter as they liked him very much.

We have been flooring over part of our tent and dug the dirt away in front of it so as to make a good place to sit upon. Our tent at present is as convenient as any house. I tell you we live like kings. The company have been out four times target shooting but I have not been strong enough to go out yet, but I shall go next time. They cut the board pretty much to pieces the last time out. I think the time they did better than any other Co. which is saying a great thing as the Sharpes rifles have always horne off the palm before. I suppose before many weeks we shall be trying our shooting irons upon some of the traitors between Galveston Bay and Fortress Monroe.

I received a letter yesterday from Ariel in which he says Carr has enlisted in Toy's company as private. "Oh what a fall, for thee, was that my countryman." The same may be said for Phil. I have heard that Scott B. Humphrey was married to a girl from West Hartford by the name of Steele. There is a man by the name of Trumbull in our company that knows him and he says that he knows it is so. He also told me that he had had a brother die with consumption this fall and would not believe that it was not so. He had got the idea that Mark Humphrey was his brother.

I have no news to write that will interest you. There has been several court martials held since we have been here and the sentences are very severe for running the guard, insulting officers, committing nuisances, etc. One man has to forfeit ½ months pay and be in the guard tent for fifteen days, another has had 30 lbs. of dirt put in his

knapsack and made to do regular duty. The punishment of being in the guard tent is more severe than you might think this season of the year, for they have no fire nor any chance of exercise and their food and drink consists of bread and water. A man is very foolish to think of breaking the rules for they are not any more galling than the civil law, but the penalties are much more severe. There is a fellow in our company close to our tent standing upon a barrel with a guard around him for insulting his corporal. If I had been in his place I would not have borne half as much from him for he insulted him every way possible before the corporal reported. Tell Grandmother that I have got a warmer berth this winter than I should have north and enjoy myself better. Respects to all.

Your Brother,

Oliver

12/21/1861

Annapolis

Dec. 25th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 22nd came at hand today and was very welcome as I had received no letters from you since L. G. Goodrich was here. Monday was a very storm day, although the storm abated somewhat in the afternoon.

Lieut. Marsh detailed me to go downtown and report to Gen. Burnside's headquarters with five others from our Regt. I was the only one from our Company. We went down and stayed at Gen. Burnside's until nearly dark when we were conveyed aboard the Arneal, a large transport, and took supper and spent the night. We had good accommodations and set down to a table and ate like folks instead of hogs.

It is the first time that I have sat down to a table to eat since I left H(artford). After breakfast we were conveyed ashore and Gen. Burnside made the detail from all the regiments but one commencing with the largest men. When he found that he had four from the 8th Conn. and only one or two from each of the other Regts, he said that it (the 8th) had not ought to furnish any more but her men were the right size. He considered for some time and then picked out the largest from the other regiments and sent us back subject to a detail whenever we shall be wanted. There was ten sent back in all, only two from our Regt. They are detailed one for a ship to be placed in the Magazine and stow away the different size balls in the proper places and keep a memorandum of where and how many of a kind so that when they are wanted they can put their hands on them without any trouble. I should think that they were to deliver out the ammunition in case of an attack. The Gen. said that it needed strong men to handle the large balls etc, etc. Of course I felt somewhat disappointed by being sent back but I had the assurance that it was not because I was not strong enough but because they didn't want so many from a regiment. The harbor is full of transports and gunboats all with the exception of 3 or 4 painted black. I should think that there is 30 or more besides some that have not yet arrived. I think I may have a chance upon one yet but do not know.

Our orderly has gone into the Calvalry and W. J. Braddock (?) has taken his place. Our Capt. has also resigned and our 1st Lieut. has taken his place. I do not know who will be 2nd Lieut. yet but guess someone out of the Co.

We shall probably start in the course of a couple weeks for "way down in Dixie" and I presume wherever we go we shall be warmly received.

As to studies, I should think that you had as many as you can attend to at present. Zonachenhof's(?) composition I think is a very good study. Hope Father is not going to be sick; he must be very careful of himself or he will get down. The boys are out target shooting this afternoon, but as I have a little touch of Ague there would be no use of my going, so I thought I would try to answer your letter. There was a young man from Bridgeport died here yesterday from our Company. His mother came a day or two before he died. His disease was camp fever. He hurt himself while upon drill, getting over a fence double quick. The doctors thought that there was nothing the matter with him and I suppose that he took a hard cold. He was conscious to the last; he was very much liked by the Company.

The Rhode Island battery is here. I have just received a letter from Ariel. Excuse writing as "the shakes" are not pleasant to write with. Respects to all inquiring friends, especially to Cousin Mary and Grandmother.

Oliver

12/25/1861

On Board "Recruit"
Annapolis
Monday, Dec. 30th, 1861

Dear Sister,

Thinking that you would like to hear how we are progressing, I have taken this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you. Duane Brown came out of the hospital about three weeks ago, but has not been to drill in that time and for a week back we had advised him to go into the hospital as he was evidently growing worse. Sunday morning, when he reported himself as usual at the Surgeon's call, the Doctor questioned him very close and told him he had better go to the hospital. I saw him a few hours afterwards and he was broken out very thick with the measles. He has had a very bad cough ever since he was discharged before and it has gradually increased to such an extent that it was almost impossible to sleep where he was. He would raise nearly a quart of phlegm a day. He has kept nothing upon his stomach for some days and the medicine he got at the Dr, we could rarely make him take. He would sit bent over the stove day after day not willing to take any medicine and complaining continually of the cold., I had said all that I could to make him go to the hospital but he thought the Dr. would surely kill him. Sunday I told the Dr. myself how he was and he immediately took him under his charge and he afterwards inquired by the way of the officers if his family were not consumptive.

This was previous to his breaking out with the measles. I am afraid it will be a hard case. I have stated it just as it is and if you see any of his folks tell them just what you think best. If he had any ambition he would get well, or in fact would not be in the hospital now. Yesterday all of the sick were removed from camp; those liable to be sick some time to the general hospital, the others on board a hospital transport.

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Judge of my surprise then, when I was summoned to pack knapsack and report to the hospital ship. It is fitted up full of good berths and is a very different affair from those steamers we came in on. The Surgeon has not been around yet, but I expect when he does to be discharged and go back to camp. Sexton is here with me. He has had the

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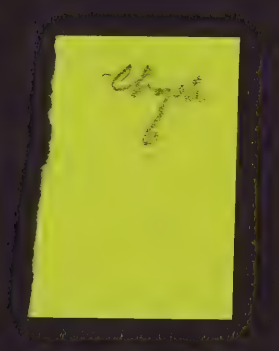
Chapel



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jaundice but is much better. There are but a few that are on board that are sick with any disease, but are most of them convalescents that are hardly strong enough for duty.

Marching orders to be ready at twelve hours notice were read upon the dress parade last night. We shall probably leave in the course of a week or ten days at farthest. It is thought that we shall go up the James River to Richmond but of course it is all rumor. If we do we shall have some tall fighting. Watson E. Carr is aboard of this schooner as he has had the camp fever and measles and has not as yet got strong. He looks quite thin but is in excellent spirits. He belongs to the 27th Mass, Co. D, mostly confined to the Co. C. Brown is the first one in our Co. Charles Arnold, aged 19 from Bridgeport died Saturday. He had had the camp fever and had been discharged from the hospital and was not so particular as he should be about eating; therefore he was taken down again. This makes two deaths within a week from our company. There are but two much sick in the hospital from our Co. now. They are Porter and Brown. Porter is convalescent and will probably be around in three or four weeks. His brother is here with him. No particular news. Give my respects to all inquiring friends and particularly to Father, Mother and Grandmother.

Write as soon as you receive this and write all the news.

Your brother

Oliver

12/30/1861

On board Schooner "Recruit"
Annapolis, Jan. 3rd, 1862

Dear Sister,

Having been expecting a letter from you for over a week and not seeing any likelihood of sending to camp to see if perchance there might be one, I again take my pencil to write you. My last was mailed the 30th. As you will perceive from the heading if this (sic), I am differently situated than when I last wrote. The day I last wrote you, myself and about 120 more of those that were nearly well were carried aboard the "Scout", another schooner lying in the harbor. We had been there two days when the doctor came and looked us over and those that were fit for duty were selected, some for duty there. 20 of us including myself were carried back on board the hospital ship for guard duty. I can tell you we should have been much better suited to have been conveyed on shore and sent to camp. I had volunteered with others to stand guard upon the "Scout" before we left and as I was put on guard as soon as we got aboard I thought that I had done my share of guard duty. The order now is for the first relief fall in so that it seems by that that we have to stand another 24 hours. The guard duty is easy but it is cold on deck at night. At 11 o'clock today, water frose(?) as soon as it touched the deck. We take turns about standing on deck so that it is quite an easy job after all. I am now standing over the water butt(?) dipping water for everyone that wants to drink and writing when I get the chance.

Secesh brig towed into port Jan 1st. The Capt. Had gone ashore and left two of the crew on board somewhere off the coast below here and they ran her in here and gave her up. "Bully for them."

The Captains of many of the regiments are here with the payrolls to be signed before drawing pay. Sexton is on board quite sick with the jaundice. I do not believe he will go with us. Everything looks as if we should leave for "Dixie" in a short time. The crew are bravely at work tightening the ropes and making everything "taut" for a start and at the camps they are paying off the men as fast as possible. There has been a great deal of trouble among the zouaves with their officers, partly because the Col. would not allow them to be paid since they enlisted (which has been 4 months) and partly because the officers were all Frenchmen and the men were all Yorkers (?) and Irish. Many of

On board Schooner "Recruit"
Annapolis, Jan. 3rd, 1862

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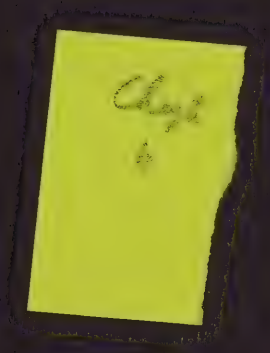
Having been expecting a letter from you for over a week and not seeing any likelihood of sending to camp to see if perchance there might be one, I again take my pencil to write you. My last was mailed the 30th. As you will perceive from the heading if this (sic), I am differently situated than when I last wrote. The day I last wrote you, myself and about 120 more of those that were nearly well were carried aboard the "Scout", another schooner lying in the harbor. We had been there two days when the doctor came and looked us over and those that were fit for duty were selected, some for duty there. 20 of us including myself were carried back on board the hospital ship for guard duty. I can tell you we should have been much better suited to have been conveyed on shore and sent to camp. I had volunteered with others to stand guard upon the "Scout" before we left and as I was put on guard as soon as we got aboard I thought that I had done my share of guard duty. The order now is for the first relief fall in so that it seems by that that we have to stand another 24 hours. The guard duty is easy but it is cold on deck at night. At 11 o'clock today, water frose(?) as soon as it touched the deck. We take turns about standing on deck so that it is quite an easy job after all. I am now standing over the water butt(?) dipping water for everyone that wants to drink and writing when I get the chance.

Secesh brig towed into port Jan 1st. The Capt. Had gone ashore and left two of the crew on board somewhere off the coast below here and they ran her in here and gave her up. "Bully for them."

The Captains of many of the regiments are here with the payrolls to be signed before drawing pay. Sexton is on board quite sick with the jaundice. I do not believe he will go with us. Everything looks as if we should leave for "Dixie" in a short time. The crew are bravely at work tightening the ropes and making everything "taut" for a start and at the camps they are paying off the men as fast as possible. There has been a great deal of trouble among the zouaves with their officers, partly because the Col. would not allow them to be paid since they enlisted (which has been 4 months) and partly because the officers were all Frenchmen and the men were all Yorkers (?) and Irish. Many of



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them have sworn to shoot him in the first engagement thet(?) are in. Rumor from their camp today is that the regiment is to be dissolved and the men distributed among other regiments. Probably part of the rumor is true and part false.

I expect I must have quite a number of letters at camp for I have received none for a week and I have five due.

Our accommodations aboard this boat are good. The only fault I have to find is that the floors are all of the time wet making the craft very damp all over and the vessel is so close upon the lower deck as to be almost stifling.

There are all kinds of coughs here from the common cold, cough to the consumptive, and from the whooping cough to the crazy hack. It is amusing to be awake and hear the different kinds of hack and to count them. There is no smoking allowed except in the steerage, but I can tell you I improve that when I have the opportunity after inhaling the sickening odors around in the craft. If I can get hold of my money before I go I shall send it home. I have sent word to camp today to have it drawn if I am not there.

Write soon directing as before. The mails will follow us wherever we go. Remember me to all inquiring friends.

From your brother,

Oliver

1/3/1862

On board Schooner "Recruit"
Annapolis Harbor, Jan. 7th, 1862
Tuesday

Dear Sister,

I now take the last opportunity of addressing you for some time as we shall leave between this and morning for "Dixie." Since I last wrote you I have seen the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed. Henry D. Sexton died this noon of jaundice. He came on board the boat the same time I did and bunked under me until day before yesterday. When he came aboard he looked much as I have seen Alonzo. Duane Brown died and was buried yesterday. This is last chance.

Brother Oliver

Too Late. I may have another chance. Sexton was a little worse Sunday, but not so bad, that he was around. He said that if he were at home he should be sitting in the rocking chair writing but as there was no place to sit down he kept his bunk. I prevailed upon the Dr. to have his bunk changed to a more comfortable one Sunday night and Monday morning I talked with him. I thought that his mind wandered a little. I left him about two. In the morning he was not conscious and remained nearly all day in the stupid state. About three he had a spasm and rushed out of his bunk. I had no control of him as he could handle me like a child.

It was very difficult to get anyone to take hold of him as they seemed to be afraid of him. It took five of us to hold him and keep him from tearing his face with his hands. He would bite at us and froth to the mouth, making a horrid noise all of the time. I stayed over him twenty four hours in succession before his death. I never saw anything so horrible in my life and if it had not been for the sailors I do not know what I should have done. He never has had any care upon the boat from the Dr.

He used to come around in the morning and ask how he did – tell him to cover up and keep warm – perhaps give him a pill. He had only his own blanket and lay down upon the lower deck where it was very cold, damp, and close and where it was an impossibility to keep warm. I used to give him my blanket when I was on guard and when he could not get warm got into the berth with him. I tried all I could to have the Dr.

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convey him to the hospital Sunday when I began to see that he was getting worse. He also begged him to be carried there and he finally promised that he might go the next day, but the next day was too late. With even ordinary car he might have got well in a short time. Do not mention this to anyone whatever. I never felt so bad in my life as when I saw that there was no hopes of his recovery. It seemed as thought I had lost the only friend I had with me. But thanks be to God what is our loss is his gain. He was prepared for the final change. Only the day before he was taken unconscious he remarked that there was only one thing that supported him during his illness at the hospital, and now when he got low-spirited, "The religion of Jesus Christ was his sustainer."

Duane went to the hospital Sunday with the measles and the Typhus Fever set in, and carried him off. He had the best of care at the hospital, as good or better than he could have had at home. Everyone that has been there speaks of the excellent care, accommodations, food etc. that they get there.

I have been upon guard since I came upon the schooner and when I am off I go around and get water, cover up, and wait upon the sick in various ways. This is not my duty as a soldier – but it is my duty as a man. The Dr. often comes to me when he wants someone to carry medicine to any man when the ward masters are busy. The consequence of this is that I fare very well as far as food is concerned for if I get two rations it is all right. We have good tea which is a great treat.

I got another man to write to Sexton's wife for I could not do it at the time. I telegraphed this morning. Lieut. Chase said a man in the 23rd Mass. had the top of his head blown off Monday.

We put all Henry's things in a box and sent by express. They would not let me help pay the expenses because they said I had done my part by being with him all the time. I have received no letter from you since the one dated the 22nd of Dec. and only one from anyone in that time.

We start tomorrow. Sexton died easy but unconscious.

Send postage stamps as soon as you find where I am. I have sent to the P. O. but cannot get any there.

Your brother,

O. C. Case

1/7/1864

On board Schooner "Recruit"
Jan. 9th, 1862

Dear Sister,

My memorandum was sent with Sexton's things by mistake, therefore I will keep one on paper and send every opportunity. Our schooner did not leave as expected. The very last chance to send ashore we hear as often as three times a day. Two cases of measles today. One has anticipated it and brought it on by his own worrying when he had no symptoms. (Name indecipherable) had another of his fits; is better today.

I have great confidence in our new doctors. Two days ago, many were getting worse; now all are getting better. I had the first all night sleep upon the boat. Pity we did not have the doctors before and have something done for Sexton.

Jan 10th

On guard through the day, but was not called at night. I am in the best of health with a good appetite. I eat two rations every meal – thanks to the nurses for that. I help them take care of the sick and they give me extra rations. I saw another case of measles this morning broke out finally.

The doctor says we shall be towed out as soon as the fog rise which is very thick. The weather is very warm and sultry.

The sick are much better; none dangerous. We are going to stop at Fortress Monroe. Dr. Green (head surgeon) has me get things for the sick very often. I like it as it gives me something to do. The Zouave drum major, a Frenchman who cannot understand English, is quite bad off with rheumatism. He got up and tried to get back but could not. I with another carried him. The Dr. talks with him in french. I have a sore throat, caused I think by smoking strong tobacco.

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Saturday, Jan. 11th

Weighed anchor about 9 o'clock A.M. Was tugged out of the harbor into the (Chesepeake) bay. There was a light breeze and she started off finely but the breeze soon died down and we hardly moved. The cook made his soup from salt water and no body could eat it. Complaints made to the Dr. and complaint to the General is in circulation signed by many of the soldiers. I do not approve of it; think it will amount to shucks.

The Dr. is the man to remedy the evil. Did not feel well this morning. Stiff breeze towards night rocking the vessel. One of the sailors sea-sick. Let go anchor for the night. Lost a gold dollar. Agreed to stand guard for a man that did not feel well.

Sunday, Jan 12th

Weighed anchor early but made slow progress. Stiff breeze in the P.M. Passed the Zouaves this P.M. There is not a time but that we cannot go on more sails. Let go anchor at night. Great argument upon religion this evening. Sick all doing well.

Monday, Jan 13th

Good wind; arrived at Fortress Monroe about 11 o'clock. It is a very busy place. The fleet here is one forest of masts. All hands are ordered to make up their beds as the brigade surgeon is expected on board soon. A chance to send and receive letters now offered. I presume the well ones will join their respective regiments at this place. We know nothing as to our destination but popular opinion among the passengers is that we shall proceed to Richmond. We are just as likely to go somewhere else. I have heard nothing from our regiment since about 4 hours after Sexton's death. I am the only one from our Co. here, but I am now acquainted with nearly all on board and enjoy it very much, perhaps more than with our own company. I care very little whether I leave here or not, but I presume it will make no difference whether I care or not.

The boat rocks so it is almost impossible to write. The sea is quite rough. The weather is a little stormy. Orders are passed over to weigh anchor and go outside. I suppose they are afraid of contagious diseases getting into the army. We have had a good deal of fun this morning seeing the Dr. shoot at ducks with his revolver. Write soon; direct to Fortress Monroe until you find where we are.

Yours,

O. C. Case

The Rip Raps are a low rocky island looking like a store quarry upon the other side of the river channel from the Fortress and has a very important position in the military point of view. The Fortress looks like a large reservoir, something like the one in Hartford only large enough to cover over six acres of land, the top and sides made permenant with cement. Can you read this?

Both doctors are seasick.

O. C. Case

1/10/1862

On board Schooner "Recruit"
Hatteras Inlet, Jan 19th, 1862

Dear Sister,

We left Fortress Monroe yesterday morning and after a rough passage arrived here about noon today. The waves ran pretty high through the day and increased to gale at night. At 12 o'clock the waves swept over the deck and carried away the ship's boats, the vessel rocking at the same time so violently as to rock some out of their berths and send all the wood and boxes tumbling over the deck. The wind broke the loose gaff (a piece of round timber 8 inches through) and sent it flying over the deck. The boilers (large heavy copper which are kept on the stove continually) of coffee were overturned and the boiling liquid sent streaming over the deck. The confusion was general, many falling out of their berths, others falling flat upon the floor. One boiler fell down the hatchway making casualties too numerous to mention. I was fast asleep when I heard the racket and such laughing and enraging (?) I never heard before. One thing was falling here, another there – those that were in their berths rolling from one side to the other (that is those that were lucky enough to keep in) and those that were out holding on to the sides. There was no danger, only a little rolling and a little fun. The fleet is nearly all in safe, only one schooner with part of the 27th Mass. and one with the Zouaves but what are heard from. The former are supposed to be lost but there is hopes that the latter may yet arrive. The steamer "Zouave" with two Mass. Companies ran upon a rock and foundered – all saved. A boat with some of the 11th Penn. (sic – must mean either 11th Conn. or 51st Penn.) was picked up – one man drowned – three died from exposure. One Colonel and two other staff officers lost together with a boat crew. Most of the casualties were occasioned by the storm while we were at the Fortress instead of the sea last night. There was but a little wind last night but the sea here is always rough, and the entrance to the inlet is very rocky and the channel crooked. There is a schooner sunk outside upon the shoals. I believe that there was one or two regulars lost from her. Of course, we have not been in long enough to get the particulars, but I think that this is as near correct as can be got at, at the present time.

I have heard a rumor that the 8th Conn was wrecked and part saved upon boats, but I can find no foundation for the rumor. The coast here is so low and sandy that it is

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difficult to distinguish a short distance off where it and the water meet. It is the most desolate looking place I ever saw. The Zouave drum major died night before last (sic) and his body left at Annapolis. He was a commissioned officer and had no business to come with us on the hospital ship. The band to which he belonged was dissolved 2 weeks before he started but he was getting $60.00 a month which was too too good a berth (?) to give up without a struggle. He never was well enough to come aboard. He died of rheumatic fever. I have been troubled with sea sickness for the last two or three days which is anything but pleasant.

Last night I could not set up but slept very soundly when in my berth while everyone else were rolling about the deck. I am well enough now that we are in port and have a good appetite and can bear salt pork without gagging. I presume that I can go to my regiment tomorrow if I wish. I would be very well contented here taking care of the sick if it were not for that horrid sea sickness, for I think that we have better accomodations here than with the regiment. Direct Fortress Monroe, Co. A, 8th Regt. Conn. Vol, Burnside's Division. Write soon and often. I shall get your letters sometime. Is Mr. Stockwell living? Is Scott Humphrey married? I have heard he was to a girl in W.H Pallos (?) W. and L(?). B. married I suppose. Are Col(?) W and Frank S(?) married or will her father not permit? Love to Father, Mother, Grandmother and all inquiring friends.

O. C. Case

1/19/1862

On board Steamer "Chasseur"
Hatteras Inlet, Jan. 26th 1862

Dear Sister,

I again take my pen to address a few lines to you, thinking you would like to receive letters of different dates although at the same time. We still remain in the Inlet as when I last wrote you but are expecting soon to go over the inside bar and land somewhere in "Dixie." Today is the first fair day since our arrival and for the last week we have had a terrible storm at times endangering many of the fleet by causing the vessels to drag anchor and to smash into each other. For the last three or four days there has hardly been a time but what there were two or three signals of distress to be seen flying but of course no relieve could be given then until after the abatement of the storm. I think that there has been no accident to any person happened and none very disasterous to the shipping. There was a regiment put ashore here and pitched their tents but the wind drove the sea over the beach and they had to gain solid ground by wading through the water about four feet deep. It was rather tedious considering the state of the weather but they went through it all safe. It is four weeks today since I came on board ship and I am now finally very anxious to again place my feet on "terra firma" although we enjoy ourselves quite well on ship board.

A gun boat arrived about an hour since from Fortress Monroe and we expect she has letters for us. We shall soon know. There is but four companies aboard this steamer, viz. A, D. F and I. The rest are aboard of a bark and a schooner; I think four companies upon the former and two upon the latter. The signal corps were given up as lost but this morning it is said that the bark can be made out outside the breakers. The signal corps are detached from the different regiments to give signals in time of an engagement. I do not know whether the Zouaves are lost or not – certain it is they are not in; such things are kept from us. I think they are sent somewhere else to garrison some fort already in our hands, because they dare not trust them in an engagement with their officers for they have sworn revenge upon them. This is only my opinion.

The weather here at the present is quite cold but nothing like a northern winter. Eatables are brought from the Sutlers boat but are held at rather high prices; apples $.05 to 10 cents each, figs .02 to .05 each, raisins $.20 per pint, (?), Oysters, Turkey Peaches,

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tomatoes, etc in quart cans from $1.50 to $2.00 each, Current, Plum, Raspberry, Grape, Pear and Strawberry jellies $1.50 to $2.00, sweet crackers $.15 per dozen and everything else in the same proportion.

The steamer brought no letters for our regt. The steamer L. R. Spaulding from Port Royal to New York lay in here through the storm. I do not know as they will let her leave until after we get away. We have received no mail since we first arrived and no mail is allowed to leave so that we are pretty effectually shut out from the world.

The fleet is composed of over 100 sales in all but a few, perhaps half a dozen, have sunk or been wrecked. This is a large steamer and they have been throwing ballast out of her to make her as light draught as possible. Is Mr. Stockwell living? I heard a short time since that the Dr. had given him over. Alonzo wrote me that he was going to move in the spring. I think he will do well to keep Public House.

Is Mr. Holbrook going to leave Tarrifville? I have heard so somewhere. I have forgotten where. How do Mr. Sexton's people take Henry's death? Have they sent to Annapolis after his body? How do Mr. Brown's people take Duane's death? Love to all.

Your brother,

Oliver

1/26/1882

These two letters are written to his brother Alonzo They were written after the Battle of Roanoke Island have great content and rich narrative about events leading up to the fight and the subsequent days:

On Steamer *Chassuer* off Roanoke Island, N. C

Feb. 11, 1862,
We left Hatteras Inlet last Wednesday but owing to the unfavorable blessings of the weather and from the very cautious manner in which we proceeded we did not arrive here until Friday morning when a bombardment of the enemy's fort immediately commenced. The day was clear and warm and it was a splendid sight to see one after another hurl their shell into the fort. It reminds me of a thunder storm where the lighting struck within sight every time. As the fire continued the replies from the fort grew less and less frequent as gun after gun were silenced and before night every gun but one was dismounted.
Our loss during the day was 4 killed & 12 wounded. At midnight our boys were landed and left standing in the mud until morning when the action commenced. The 24 Mass. & 8th Conn. were held as reserve and were not in. The rebels retreated to their fortifications and did good execution. Our boys tried to turn the entrance but were not successful when Hawkins Zouaves took the lead and scaled the fort and drove the rebels out at the point of the bayonet. The action continued until 2 P. M. when the whole Island was unconditionally surrendered. We took 3000 prisoners, 35 pieces of artillery, 5000 stand of arms besides ammunition, baggage etc. The pieces was all but 5 32 pounders, 1 100 pounder, many of them were rifled.

The soldiers are around picking up prisoners all over the island. They bring in a great many each day. There are five forts strongly fortified upon the island which fell into our hands. We think here it is a big thing. I do not know what will be thought of it north. Our loss is about 50 killed and about 75 wounded, principally from the 10th **[Conn.]** ***& 25th Mass. The prisoners are to be sent to N. Y. as soon as possible...***

I have been sick for about 10 days with fever & ague. I am much better now, shall be well enough in 3 or 4 days and have the promise of being taken ashore today... **[I]** ***have been on board over 6 weeks. It is a pretty tough place for a person that is unwell. The 8th & 4th R. I. are to be left here.***

The fleet expects soon to attack Elizabethtown & New Bern. Our gunboats have gone up to Elizabeth now. The rebels have 7 gunboats which have also gone there. They have given orders to burn them rather than have them fall into our hands. We learn this from a deserter. The rebels burnt their fort upon the main land the night after the battle. The reason for so doing we cannot conjecture as their (sic) is no connection between that and the island...the Col. **[Russell]** ***of the 10th*** **[Conn.]** ***is killed & the Lieut. Col. of the Zouaves. O. Jennings Wise son of the ex-governor was killed. His last words, 'Oh that I could only kill another d-d Yankee before I die.'...direct Burnside's Coast Division...***
O. C. Case.

Roanoke Island, N.C.

February 18, 1862

The regiment landed...Friday night the 7th about 12 o'clock and waited until morning when the action commenced...the island is covered with woods with the exception of here and there a clearing with a house upon it. The soil is sandy except where it is swampy and is easily cultivated and with proper cultivation and fertilizers would produce good crops, bushels of sweet potatoes, chickens, hogs, calves and everything else that was eatable. The Zouaves stole a man's chickens carried them in and made them cook them for them. Pigs were taken out of the pen killed and skinned in short order... Our encampment is about four miles from the battleground and but a short distance from the fort that was bombarded by our gunboats... The rebel prisoners are still upon the island. What is to be done with them I know not. Those that have seen them describe most of them as a hard looking set but with some fine looking men. The Georgia regiment were tigers to fight, but those from N. C. were not over brave. The Georgia prisoners say they will fight again if they get the chance. They are very insolent calling their guard anything but honest men. A black flag was found and also an agreement signed by the Georgia rebels to give no quarter nor ask any. If the Zouaves had found this before the battle ended it would have gone hard with them.

Our camp is situated near were a secesh camp was. We find envelopes and pieces of paper with many of their names. There is a rumor that the regiment is to leave on the wheelbarrow (a steam wheel steamer) in light marching order with 3 days rations...to attack New Bern which is said to be strongly fortified... we shall have a sharp time of it for a rebels are concentrating there and are going to defend it at all hazards. The reasons we got possession of the island so easily was that the troops landed in a swamp where the rebels thought it was impossible for us to march through. Wise was upon the island 3 or four days before and said that there was one fault with the batteries. They did not command the swamp. They said that was impossible. Wise said that those d-d Yankees would wade through water to their necks if they could get at them no other way... re was some flags of distress flying but I heard of no suffering….

O. C. Case

Roanoke Island
Feb. 19th, 1862

Dear Sister,

I felt inclined not to write you because I received no letter from you in the last mail, but thinking that you will do better in the future, and knowing that you would naturally feel anxious to know how I am prospering, I have concluded to write you a few lines. I did not leave the old Chasseur until last Friday for the reason that I was indisposed, and the regiment had not pitched their tents and it was rather damp lying in the open air, especially or the one who was not well. It was with feelings of delight that I again set my feet upon "terra firma" after having been upon the briny deep for over six weeks. I read in the paper that we had terrible sufferings while there; perhaps it was so but I did not see it. The newspapers were short of news from Burnside's expedition and manufactured that fot the occasion. Perhaps it had a good effect in keeping the public mind from a most cursing the Gen. for the delay as he had an excuse. I do not believe that he was delayed at all by the storm, if so only a short time.

The island is almost covered with forests, mostly pitch pine , with now and then a clearing of five or six acres with a small house upon it. The land after it is cleared up is very easy of cultivation and produces light crops of corn and sweet potatoes. The forests are perfect jungle, it being almost an impossibilitiy for man and beast to get through them. There are many swamps upon the island which are a perfect mat of green briars about 10 feet high and so thick that there is no guard kept next to them, which is the time as saying that they cannot be passed through. How that any force under the Gen's command could have taken the place with its numerous fortifications together with its natural advantages for repelling an attack is a wonder to many. The Georgians say that the North Carolina troops did not fight but played into out hands.

I don't know that they are half right for a large number now appear to be decided Unionists and quite a number have enlisted into the Mass. Regiments. Most of the prisoners were taken on board ship yesterday; as a general thing they are a tough looking set although there are some fine looking men amongst them. We are very glad to get rid of them for some of them, especially the Georgians, might be troublesome in case of an attack. They have barracks erected capable of containing 15,000 troops besides those

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that were burned at the upper fort. There are five forts or fortifications mounting 40 pieces of cannon of large caliber. After the battle the boys begin to look around for something to stay their stomachs as many of them had thrown away their 3 days rations of salt horse and hard tack at the beginning of the engagement.

They found hogs, chickens, calves, sweet potatoes etc. in abundance which they made the most of. Any way if you take a stroll over the island you will find hog skins and innards etc. scattered all about in considerable quantities. The Zouaves went and killed a man's chickens, dressed them, then carried them in and made the owner cook them for them. Was not that rather cheeky? I have written nothing about the battle for the papers will be fun of it. Gen Burnside said the 8th Conn. held as responsibility fast as any upon the field although they did not have to fire a gun. His orders were to hold it even if it took every last man. At one time it looked as though the brunt of the battle wqs coming upon them, but the enemy were flanked and turned in another direction.

Our camp is situated in a very pleasant locality just out of the woods in the place where the secesh had cleared it for us, and is protected from the cold winds and hot sun. It has rained every day since I came ashore until yesterday when it put off until night; then it commenced anew and rained until morning. It does not rain today but is cloudy and looks like a shower. It wants a little rain to settle the ground. Orders were given Sunday night to have three days rations cooks and the regiment was to leave Monday morning in light marching order for some place.

All those that were unfit for duty were looked up Sunday night and every one expected to leave in the morning or before. The Lieut. and Capt. both sent for me unbeknown to each other and told me that as I had been sick so recently I should not be able to go and wanted me to stay in their tents and in case the regiment should not come back to see about packing up their things. It was all very well for them but I wanted to go with the regiment and try my luck in an engagement. Each of them told me as it was such very wet weather and we should have to lie outdoors in the water it would surely bring on the Fever and Ague.

I did not tell the Capt. That the Lieut. had spoken to me first about it fot I thought I could see to both. The 5th R. I. regiment have left in light marching order. No one knows wherefor. I am well and hearty. It is stated here, and by the officers, that the Gov.

of N. C. has given up the state to Uncle Sam and will render what assistance is in his power to drive the rebels out of it. You will learn the truth of it by the papers.

I was much surprised to hear that Sam Terry is married. Give my love to Father, Mother and Grandmother. Respects to all

Write soon and often. Do not wait to receive letters from me

Your brother Oliver,

Casie

2/19/1862

Roanoke Island

Feb. 27th 1862

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 13th was received last Monday, but as I had just written a letter directed to Mother I have delayed writing to you until now. The mail steamer was delayed several days upon the sound at Hatteras to the no small disgust of us as we expected to hear each day that she had been got off and had arrived. But as all things must end sooner or later, so our murmuring came to an end at last and the long expected mail arrived. You could tell by the looks of the faces who had and who had not received a portion, the former were smiling and jovial while the visage of the latter were lengthened to an alarming extent. I received four letters and one paper; not as many as I expected but enough so I did not complain. I have nothing particular to write as camp life is not very productive of news. The weather is quite cool; it usually rains every night but is clear in the daytime. My health never was better than at present.

I can eat at least a dozen stewed hard tack every day besides drinking over a quart of coffee and any quantity of salt horse. The Gov of N. C. sent a small schooner with a flag of truce requesting Gen. Burnside to give him 10 days to recall his troops and if at the end of that time any troops remain under arms he will use his influence to proceed against them with the force sufficient to drive them from the state. Gen. Burnside is said to have granted the request – if so we shall expect no fighting for ten days at least. Capt. Fowler got into a fuss with the Lieut. Col. at Annapolis and sent in his resignation. It has just come back from Washington accepted and he is going home. I think he would be glad to stay as his company think everything of him. He was the best military man in the regiment and should have been Maj. instead of Capt. Appleton. The only thing I know against him is that he did not come from Norwich.

Every indication of a protracted War seems nearly obliterated and I think if the Lord is willing, and the creek is not high, we shall be in old Conn. by the first of Sept. I should think you had quite a gathering of young people the other evening.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I quote from your letter; "Julia Goodwin was not there." You appear to be much interested in the welfare of J. G. I do not see why you should mention her in particular as not being there. Were all the young

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people of Hopmeadow there but her? I am very sorry to hear that Mary Bidwell is so low. I had thought of writing inquiring as to hear health. All Simsbury seems to be getting married; who would have thought that Sam, Terry and Henry Noble would be married in the same month. I will never be surprised at anything hereafter.

Give my love to Grandmother, Father, Mother, etc. Respects to all inquiring friends. I received your postage stamps and was very thankful for them. You can judge how many letters I write for I have but three stamps left. The Sutler has got some so you need not send any more at present.

Co, Regt, etc.

Burnside's Division. This is sufficient

Your aff. Brother,

O. C. Case

2/27/1862

Roanoke Island

March 4th, 1862

Dear Sister,

As we are expecting to leave this place soon and an opportunity being offered to send letters today, I thought I would write a few lines to keep you posted as to my whereabouts and keep you informed as to the state of my health.

Ever since we came here we have been expecting to move every few days, and the orders here have been to keep three days rations cooked in advance as to be ready to start at a moments warming. Last night we had orders to strike tents at reveille in the morning which is beat at six A.M.

You can bet that there was some early rising this morning if never before. All gathered their traps together, packing knapsacks, rolling blankets etc. But when the reveille was beat the order to strike tents was not given as had been expected, and it was shortly given out that we should not be able to go aboard this forenoon on account of the wind which was blowing a strong northeaster at the time.

At noon our rations were dealt out, and our ammunition was looked to, to see if we had a full supply.

The companies that came to the "Sentinel" viz. C. E. H. and K were ordered to get ready to strike tents in 35 minutes. It has been over an hour and the drum has not beat yet. I do not know what occasions the delay. I think in all probability we shall not go aboard before morning although we are prepared to hear the order any moment to "strike tents in fifteen minutes." I have just stopped writing to take some cartridges from the orderly to make up my forty rounds. As to our destination we are entirely ignorant, some say one place – some another, but none know. I was rather disappointed yesterday by not getting more mail, it being the first mail that the Regt. has received since we left Annapolis but that I have received as much as four letters besides a number of papers. Yesterday I received no letters and only one paper.

We had quite a number of resignations in our regiment within a short time, besides rumors of plenty more. Capt Fowler, Capt Nash and a couple of Lieut's. have gone home. It is rumored that the Col. and Chaplain are both going home, also several

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We had quite a number of resignations in our regiment within a short time, besides rumors of plenty more. Capt Fowler, Capt Nash and a couple of Lieut's. have gone home. It is rumored that the Col. and Chaplain are both going home, also several

others. The reason assigned for the resignation of the Col. Was that Gen. Burnside had given him particular fits about the ay he had conducted the regiment.

The Q. M. had to take his share of it because the new clothes were not ready for the regiment. The regiment is quite ragged at present and looks quite shabby; some were not careful of their clothes, and some were made of poor stuff. Gen. Burnside said "he did not want a ragged regiment following him around, and if they expected to be his body guard, they must be better clothed." The Q. M. borrowed about 250 pairs of pants of the R. I. regiment and let those whose clothes were nearly torn off have them. The Gen. looks out for his men and woe be to the officer under him that tries to "rough it" on them. When we first came here we had some salt junk that was cooked up for two or three days rations and put hot into barrels, and before we ate it up it was a little tainted around the bones. The Gen. found it out and gave the commissary to understand if it happened again he could <u>march</u>. His men were not going to eat stinking meat. Health excellent. Weather warm. Write often. Our letters are often kept back by order of the Gen.

Love to all,

O. C. Casie

3/4/1862

On board Steamer "Chasseur"
Off Roanoke Island
March 11th, 1862

Dear Sister,

As we are about moving for some place we know not where, I thought I would pencil a few lines to you to keep you as well posted as possible. We left camp (rather broke up camp) last Wednesday and were conveyed bag and baggage aboard this steamer bound for someplace, rumor says Newbern, but it is as likely to be some other place. Saturday, orders from Gen. Burnside were received that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd brigades should hold themselves in readiness to march on an hours notice, each man to carry one woolen blanket, one days rations in his haversack (two others to be cooked and carried in bulk,) 40 rounds of ammunition in the cartridge boxes and twenty more in pockets. Each man is to be held responsible for his blanket and the excitement of an engagement or of a charge will not be deemed a reasonable excuse for their loss. We are eager for a start and shall probably go today and we expect to make a hole somewhere when we move. It is likely that the fleet and land forces will act in conjunction and while the former peppers them in front, we shall attack them in the rear. Sunday night we heard of the taking of Nashville with 8000 prisoners, whether it is true or not we do not know as we have heard no confirmation. We want to do a big thing here as well as the army in Tennessee, and if we suceed in cutting railroad communication between north and south Secession it will be a big thing. There will doubtless be a large number killed on both sides, but will it not be a good time to die? A man better die fighting for his country than at home. There is not the dread of Death here as there; but I expect like everyone else to come out alive. I have yet to see the man that did not. It is much the best way on the men to go into an action with high hopes and good spirits instead of feeling low and depressed.

There has been some talk of enlisting in the regulars. The recruiting officer has been around in some regiments and many have enlisted. He has not been here and probably not in this division, but doubtless will be. I should like very much to enlist but will not until I hear from home, and know what you think about it. As for me, I should like it better than anything else I can do. Write what Father and Mother think about it when you receive this.

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There was a soldier shot last night in the upper part of the thigh. It was about 11 o'clock when a pistol which another man accidentally lost from his berth; the jar fired off. The ball is left in him and will probably not be taken out, as it is only a flesh wound and nothing serious.

I have received no mail for nearly two weeks and am very anxious to receive one. We shall, I think, start before getting one as the anchor is being weighed at the present time, and in a few moments we shall be off. If we pass Hatteras we may have an opportunity of sending letters and perhaps receive mail. We have started, and are now underway.

Respects to all. Write soon and often.

Your brother,

Oliver

3/11/1862

In camp near Newbern
March 16th, 1862

Dear Sister,

Your letter was received while on board of the "Chasseur" Wednesday night. It had been laying at the Hatteras Inlet and was taken aboard by one of the fleet and delivered while we lay by for the night. You ought to have seen that boat about eleven o'clock, every light occupied by at least a dozen different persons each anxious to read the news from home.

We landed Friday A.M. in a small cove and immediately commenced marching up the river. We followed the beach for about two miles through the sand over shoes and then struck off across the fields. In a short time we came up to an encampment of cavalry which had been evacuated but a short time. Some of the boys fell out and helped themselves to chickens, ham, biscuits etc. We travelled till after sundown over the muddiest road (if road it could be called) that I ever saw. We passed several farmhouses on our journey but most of the road lay through the woods.

About the middle of the afternoon we came to the first battery, which had just been evacuated and the barracks set on fire, which were still burning as we passed. We found out afterward that if we had been a day later the rebels would have had their forces there and mounted and it would have taken the lives of many men to have dislodged them for it is a very strong point. The fortification is a mile long, with a large ditch in front protected in the rear by breast works of huge trees felled top of one another. It would have been almost impossible to have flanked them and they would undoubtedly have had to be charged upon to have dislodged them.

It had been raining some all day and after we had stopped for the night it commenced in good earnest, which was the rule, with slight variations, for the night. We were allowed fires which, thanks to the pitch pine wood, could burn as well wet as dry. I can tell you that after 12 o'clock very little sleeping was done by the soldiers in this division. About 6 A.M. we started, wet as rats, but due to the southern climate, not cold and our blankets (were) as heavy as 8 ought to be.

We had not proceeded but a short distance when we heard the rattle of musketry and the booming of cannon, telling us that the action had commenced in earnest. As we

advanced toward the battery, the balls rung tunes over our heads and occasionally played a little nearer our heads than we cared for. Philo Matson, from out on Firetown mountains, was in the rank ahead of me and was much frightened; he would have fell out if possible. The orders were given to fall down, right up, fix bayonets, fire. As soon as I had fired, I head Philo say, "Oh, I'm killed", turned and saw a slight flesh would on the top of his head. I certainly could not help laughing to see him. He turned to the orderly and asked him if he thought he was killed and, when he found out that he was still in the land of the living, took his gun and made himself missing as soon as possible.

Companies G and H were sent out as skirmishers while we lay here upon the ground. Capt. Epham(?) of Co. H was wounded in the shoulder at this time; it is feared mortally. Howes Phelps from Co. B was killed. At this time, word came that the 21st Mass. had charged upon the battery and were repulsed. We were ordered on double quick through a ravine until we reached the rail road where was a high embankment where halted to form. The balls, meanwhile, were flying as thick as hailstorms. The rebels fired one volley which wounded several and killed two from our regiment. We were then ordered to fall and by mistake our colors fell too, and the rebels, deceived by our gray coats, took us to be rebel reinforcements arriving by rail road and ceased firing upon us; this mistake probably saved many lives. When we started from there we went double quick to charge their battery, but as they did not like the look of cold steel they left in a hurry. The color guard immediately ran up to the battery and planted the colors which were the first upon the battery.

The U. S. flag had two bullet holes shot through it while being planted. We were ordered to file right towards the other battery and were drawn up in a line of battle, and the two flank companies again sent out as skirmishers. In a few moments, a Gen's aid came with his horse upon a run, and asked, "why did we not charge upon that battery?" saying that we were wanted there very much. The Col. told him to go to Gen. Parke; that he was the man to give orders. The Gen. ordered the left wing of the brigade to charge and the right to flank them (the enemy) if they attempted to retreat to the right, which we were much afraid of as by this means they would get possession of the first battery again, and if the Rhode Island regiment was driven back that we should reinforce them. Three different times we prepared to charge, but each time some circumstance happened that

3/16/1862

prevented it. As we lay upon the ground the balls whistled over our heads in abundance but did not do our regiment much injury. I think there is but three killed and about a dozen wounded in the 8th. The 11th suffered more than we when lying upon the ground, for the balls simply whistled over our heads and hit right in amongst them.

Capt. Lee from Hartford was killed and two of his company by the same ball. Our loss is about 100 killed and 200 or 300 wounded. There were two wounded in our company, one in the wrist and one in the head – neither serious. I had no idea of the noise created in battle by the artillery and the musketry until I heard it. It was like one continuous roll of thunder for perhaps half an hour without the least intermission, and then perhaps after a few seconds another more deafening, if possible, than before.

After the taking of the second battery, we took the railroad for Newbern. We came upon three secesh camps about three or four miles from the batteries situated within about a quarter of a mile of each other. The camps had just been left; the principal Q.M. and Commissary tents were in flames, but the barracks and sheds for the horses and two commissary tents with a lot of provisions and horse feed were left in good condition. There were lots of clothes left that had never been worn, also double barrel shot guns, carpet bags full of trinkets, letters, daguerreotypes etc. I have read about a dozen of the letters but find nothing interesting in them and of no interest in themselves except as specimens of poor spelling. We marched past the camp one half mile but were ordered back to camp for the night.

The forward part of our division went to Newbern and captured several thousand prisoners. 120 car loads left at the approach of our troops. The rebels burnt all the public buildings and any others that they thought would be of any value to us. It was the grandest sign I ever saw. It looked like a needless sacrifice of property, but I suppose it was better than to have it fall into our hands. We have taken 60 pieces of artillery in the different fortifications besides many military stores. I suppose the next stand of the rebels will be at Goldsboro where we shall probably attack them in a few days. There is no one of your acquaintances killed in the battle

Alonzo wrote me some time ago, asking Lieut. March if Duane's money had been sent. I wrote him that it was sent to Melvin Goddard, North Canton, Conn. The reason why it was sent there was that Philo Matson told them it was best and he was the only

3/16/1862

one that knew anything about his family, in the company. I was upon the hospital boat at the time.

There were a few of our boys that fell out before the battle and have thus made themselves the laughing stock of the company. I tell you it does not play well to play coward here. We have been living some since we came here upon what the secesh left. We have found molasses, sugar, rice, coffee etc. which we cook ourselves. Just imagine a soldier having his griddlecakes for breakfast, fresh meat for dinner, boiled rice and coffee for supper and you have an idea of the way we are living at present.

There is one thing I forgot to tell you. It is that in the Rhode Island 4th there is a woman that goes with them wherever they go. I saw her first upon the Island, but have seen her often since. She dresses in bloomer costume with black pants, a closely fitting bodice with a skirt coming nearly to the knees, men's boots with her pants tucked inside and a nice velvet hat. There, that the is the first time I ever described a lady's dress and I hope you will not critisize it too much. I saw her with the regiment Thursday straining (?) through the mud with her blanket on her shoulder, equal to the best of them. There was one of the officers' aides riding one horse and leading another one when he came up to where she was. She jumped on to the horse as easy as any man. It was the first time I ever saw a woman ride a horse like a man.

In the morning when we got up to start, the regiment formed in the road close by her; she was ahead carrying the flag. She went with them into the battle field and ran some very near chances of being hit, the shell of one bursting close to her side. She begged the Col. To let her kill one of the wounded rebels to pay for her husband being wounded. She looks, a little way off, like a young girl of twelve or fourteen years. She was out in the three months campaign. Her husband is now the Lieut; he was orderly when she was married. There are not many men with more pluck than she has.

There came into camp last night about 35 contrabands and more coming in continually. I left your letter with my knapsack on the boat and cannot now tell what you wrote. I did not like the idea of having the secess read my letters so did not bring them with me. George Lewis sends respects.

Give my love to Grandmother. Love to all. My postage stamps are on the boat. Your ever aff. Brother, O. C. Case

3/16/1862

Carolina City

Sunday, April 6th, 1862

Dear Sister,

I don't know but you think I have forgotten you in delaying writing for so long a time, but the truth is all our movements of late have been in light marching order, everything being left behind except blankets and accoutrements. The last I wrote you, I believe, was dated Newbern where we stayed until the 18th when we again went aboard of the steamer, destination unknown. We landed up the creek about 7 miles; the same one that we landed at the mouth of before, and again took to land. Here we remained until 5 ½ o'clock, without having had any rations for one and one half days, when 35 men from A company were picked out for a forced march of a dozen miles.

There was the 4th R. I. and the 8th Conn. It was the hardest march I ever saw; mud over shoes, water often knee deep, our haversacks empty, stomachs ditto. We arrived at deserted Secesh Camp barracks about 9 ½ o'clock where we made up fires and kept ourselves quite comfortable for the night. Some of our men were so completely exhausted that as soon as they got to camp they fell upon the ground and could not be aroused. We again took up our line of march about 11 o'clock the next day, leaving a few companies to guard the barracks, on the road towards Morehead and Beaufort. We had proceeded but a short distance when we were halted and a day's rations of hardtack and about ½ gill of whiskey given to each man. Our march was rather hard for the reason that we were so stiffened up by our last night's tramp, but as we only marched nine miles we stood it pretty well. I was put upon picket the first night which I did not relish very much after the fatigue of marching, but lucky for me I had a pair of dry stockings in my pocket which were worth their weight in gold at such a time.

It was the 22nd when we arrived at Carolina City where we have remained in some shanties of boards which we have picked from some old dilapidated dwelling. The sesech burn the principal buildings before they left. There has been a splendid vessel burnt near the fort since we have been there to prevent its falling into our hands. I have been out on picket 7 miles from camp with two day's rations this last week and like it very much. We traded off our hardtack and salt horse for sweet potatoes and hoecake and had a fine mess of greens. When I got back, Co. A was on the other side of the

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sounds, except for a few sick ones who were left behind, and as our tents had come we were to pitch and floor them and get into camp once more. We expect the Co. back today but they may not be in, in several days. Our regiment is pretty well split up; two companies at Morehead, one at Beaufort, and ours over on the Island.

Fort Macon is situated upon the extreme west of the island and completely hemmed in by our forces, both by land and by water. Our gunboats will make an attack soon, assisted by the artillery, if they do not surrender. It seems a pity that they should attempt to hold it when they themselves know they cannot and it will probably cost them a great many lives. The garrison consists of 300 men which cannot hold it a great while against our mortars.

I have received all your letters, the last one from Father. I was much rejoiced to receive a letter from him. I was very sorry to hear that Uncle J. A. Tuller's house was burnt. The deaths of Wm. Mather and wife; were they not sudden?

I will write a better letter next time.

Love to all,

O. C. Case

4/6/1862

CIVIL WAR 8th CT INF ANTIETAM KIA SOLDIER LETTER SIGNED

- **Sold Date:** 04/26/2011
- **Channel:** Online Auction
- **Source:** eBay
- **Category:** Books, Paper & Magazines

Here's an April 1862 Civil War Date Soldiers Letter Signed by Private Oliver C. Case of the Ever Valiant & Hard-Fighting 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment! Pvt. Case would be Killed in Action at Antietam in 1862. Oliver C. Case resided at Simsbury, CT. He enlisted in the Union Army on Sept. 16, 1861 as a Private, and on Sept. 27, 1861 he was mustered into 'B' Co. CT 8th Infantry and experienced an intra Regimental Company Transfer on Oct. 1, 1861 from company B to company A. Private Case was Killed in action shortly after he penned this letter on Sept 17, 1862 at Antietam, Maryland, and is among the honored dead of war buried at Antietam National Cemetery, Sharpsburg, MD [Gravesite: # 1,090].

Source: Connecticut: Record of Service of Men during War of Rebellion; Report of Major Ward 8th CT Inf: Sept 22, 1862; The Bivouacs of the Dead]

In this 4 pp. Letter dated at "Newbern [North Carolina], April 8, 1862,

Case writes to his friend, A. S. Chapman at Simsbury CT.

This document has great content referring to the taking of Fort Macon, and other war-related content.

The letter reads in part:

"Dear Friend,
Since I last wrote you we have been crossing around the country considerable...When we were on Bogue Island they put us through pretty hard making us build intrenchments and do picket duty. After the taking of the Fort the duty was not quite so irksome and in a few days we were ordered to pack knapsacks and report ready to march in an hour. We were placed aboard of some old scours and conveyed to Carolina City and from thence after spending night in the depot. We took the steamer for Newbern ...we spent the night upon the boat and was landed opposite side of the Trent from the City. We have a very pleasant place for our encampment about 1/4 of a mile from the city...Here is a splendid grove on the banks of the river where we can enjoy ourselves in the heat of the day. We

have got our new Sibley tents, which are very much liked by the boys. They are tiptop strong and are a great improvement upon the old ones.

"The fortifications about Newbern are very extensive and the force we have here at present can resist succesfully 100,000 men if the rebels should see fit to attack us, as they may do if they are driven from the Old Dominion. I rather think that Mc. [General McClellan] will take care of them however and give them all they want. There is quite an enterprising daily published at Newbern by a detachment from Burnside's Division. All trades and professions are represented in this division and no matter what wants driving a plenty can be ready to step forward and do it.

"The rail-road bridge across the Trent between here and the City is post being rebuilt and is a short time the whole railroad from Murehead to Goldsboro will be in running order...Three hours drill each day; the guard not to be allowed to their quarters for the 24 hours that they are on duty...shall take everything with them. Penalty for disobeying this order is 80 days in the guard tent upon bread and water...I reckon as far as health is concerned we have the best division in the army. At least I would not change with any of them. The reason I have written so few letters lately is owing to the impossibility of getting postage stamps.

"Remember me to all. Direct to Newbern N. C.

Yours, O. C. Case."

THE ORIGINAL TRANSMITTAL COVER BEARS A 'U.S. SHIP' POSTMARK RATE CANCELLATION AND OFFICER MEDICAL ENDORSEMENT FROM 'M. Sims, Surgeon of the 8th CT. V." A BEAUTIFUL COVER FOR CIVIL WAR POSTAL HISTORY BUFFS!

.....

A Beautifully Patriotic Letter and verse from a loyal soldier of the 8th Ct who would soon come to know fierce battle - and ultimately die for his country at Antietam! The document and cover are in Very Good Condition. The envelope is complete with its backflap.

A RARE ADDITION TO YOUR STATE OF CONNECTICUT MILITARY HISTORY AUTOGRAPH, MANUSCRIPT & CIVIL WAR POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTI...

Bouge Island
April 17th, 1862

Dear Sister,

Yours was received in due time and, of course read with eagerness. I had heard of the burning of J. A. Tuller's house, but did not know how it caught fire.

The weather here is very warm in the daytime with the exception of a cool sea breeze which makes it quite comfortable.

Some of the companies are detailed each night to help build entrenchments and I think that by three or four days at farthest we shall open fire upon the fort. The mortars and field pieces are nearly all in position, and part of the howitzers.

I do not see what object P. A. Matson can have in representing me sick and "will probably never be able to see Conn. again." He knows that since I left Annapolis, with the bare exception of a short time upon the "Chasseur", I have been perfectly healthy. I do not think that there is one in the company but what has had sick spells caused by exposure. I may not live to get home, but I think I stand as good a chance as anyone in the company, P. A. Matson to the contrary notwithstanding.

Did you not receive a letter mailed Newbern written on a large sheet of bill paper? It was some that the Secesh left and we found. I wrote one to Ariel which he received; you can get that of him if he has not torn it up and if you can read it, by having patience to pick out bad pencil marks, you will find as much of a description of the battle as I could give. A person in the ranks knows very little about a battle; all he knows is to obey orders. I felt very different upon the battle than I had expected. There is not the dread of death that one naturally expects. P. A. Matson was in the file ahead of me and I could not help laughing to see him skulk and dodge, trying to fall out, When he was hit he fell upon the ground saying, "Oh God, I'm killed. Orderly, be I killed?" I never was more pleased at any thing in my life. That shot was worth a great deal to him for it was nothing but a scratch at most.

I have sent with Lieut. Marsh's package $25.00. I wish you would call on Mrs. W. P. Marsh and get it.

Capt. Hoyt is sick and at the hospital in Morehead; afraid he is going to have a run of fever. I have been a little down with a cold for a week or ten days, but since I have got

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Capt. Hoyt is sick and at the hospital in Morehead; afraid he is going to have a run of fever. I have been a little down with a cold for a week or ten days, but since I have got

into camp I am all right. I am afraid that some of my letters are miscarried because I did not put on the count.

What is Alonzo's boy's name? Give my best to all inquiring friends.

Ever yours,

O. C. Case

P. S. If you send me anything, send paper, envelopes, pen and ink.

O. C. Case.

4/17/1862

Bougue Island
April 28th, 1862

Dear Sister,

It has been sometime since I have written a letter to you and, thinking you would like to hear from me, I take this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you. The regiment has been hard at work ever since we arrived here, throwing up entrenchments to protect the artillery and infantry. The work was completed Thursday night and the bombardment commenced early the next morning and continued without intermission until four in the P.M., our regiment meanwhile lying behind the breastworks while a perfect rain of shot and shell came upon all sides of them, many times caving the banks upon them so it was necessary to dig one another out with shovels. Several of our men were hit by balls rolling into the trench upon them, but none were wounded. The artillery lost one killed and two wounded.

The rebels came out with a white flag about four o'clock and a messenger was sent for. Gen. Burnside, also, arrived in the evening. Capitulations were agreed upon before morning and early the next day the "Stars and Stripes" were run up by the 4th R. I. Regiment. The 8th Conn. were not very well suited to do all the work and have the 4th R. I. hoist their flag, but that is all right; it is "Uncle Sam', anyhow. The prisoners were discharged on parole, much to their gratification and some of our boy's displeasure. Sightseers say that they had a great time over in Beaufort Saturday when the garrison was set free.

Children looking for their parents, wives for their husbands, fathers for their children and when they were recognized in the crowd such a hugging and kissing as was not often seen was carried on. I forgot to mention that their loss (according to their statement) was 8 killed and 15 wounded, but "Dame Rumor" says they were busy all night burying their dead. There were five guns dismounted in the fort and the inside generally was pretty well used up. Capt. Hoyt has been over to see us today and will probably take charge of his regiment in a few days.

We shall have to go to Newbern tomorrow or next day – distance 42 miles – good tramp for a worn out regiment.

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I have the Ague about two days out of three; I have an excellent appetite and eat more victuals and "quinine" than two men should. My discharge was made out by the Capt. about ten days since; he says he will do all he can to get it through. Don't think I am hard sick for I am around cooking and shaking, hardly ever contented to be in my tent. Now that I have told you this, don't think that I am coming for it is not such an easy thing to get a discharge and as far as living is concerned, I could live three years and shake all of the time, but I never should be of any use to the army.

Write soon and often.

O. C. Case

4/25/1862

Newbern, N. C.

Thursday, May 8th, 1862

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 27th is just at hand and has I have written no letter home for some time I hasten to reply. When I last write you, we were among the sand hills of Bogue Island where a spear of green grass was a curiosity and where sand flies and fleas seemed as if to foreclose mortgages upon your carcass, but now "thank fortune" we are once more in an inhabitable country where everything is calculated to make one enjoy himself. The ground is carpeted, the trees are covered with foliage and both upon the ground and trees abound. We left Bogue Bank about a week since, taking an old schooner for Carolina City and from thence "the young wheelbarrow", a small stern wheel steamer taken from secesh, to Morehead where we arrived in the P.M. We spent the night in the R. R. depot, which by the way is situated over the water, and took the steamer "Highland Light" for Newbern where we arrived about 5 P.M. and after spending the following night upon the boat were landed upon the opposite side of the Trent from Newbern. We are encamped about ¾ of a mile from the city upon the bank of the Neuse in a very pleasant locality.

We received our new Sibley tents yesterday and are much pleased with them. They are perfectly round with a center pole about twelve feet high and a ventilator at the top. The diameter of the tents at the bottom is about twelve feet and they accommodate when full twenty, although at present they will have to accommodate only twelve.

Every few days our pickets are driven in (about twelve miles below here) by some secesh cavalry. Several have been killed and some taken prisoners. To prevent this in the future, Gen Burnside has ordered several thousand cavalry to be sent on to scour the country and look up the scattering rebels. The first detachment arrived Tuesday and the others (35 schooners in all) are said to be between here and Hatteras.

There is an excellent daily published here by the Union troops which gives all the news current in this quarter. I will send you one the first opportunity. The steamer last night brought in the news that Yorktown was evacuated. "Query," where will they make a stand next?

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Capt. Hoyt is well and with his company. He has had a pretty tough time of it. This is the first place I have been in this state where the land looked as though it would pay for cultivation, but here it looks as if it might raise large crops of corn or tobacco.

In some of my letters I have spoken of getting a discharge but as I am well at present and likely to continue so I, of course, shall (and can) not get one.

The troops are busily engaged in building a railroad bridge over the Trent (where the revels burnt the old one) and in a short time (R. R. communication will be open throughout the whole extent of the road.

The checks of the state bounty are ready and will be given out today or tomorrow.

I received last mail the first No. of "The News Letter." I suppose they are plenty with you although quite a novelty here. When I heard that the Conn. had been so high I thought that you must have had some trouble with water in Weatogue.

Write soon and often. Letters from home are getting to be a scarcity with me; in fact, letters from any place are not as plenty as they were. I used to get at least 4 each mail, now sometimes one and sometimes not any. I made out to get three today, considering myself lucky.

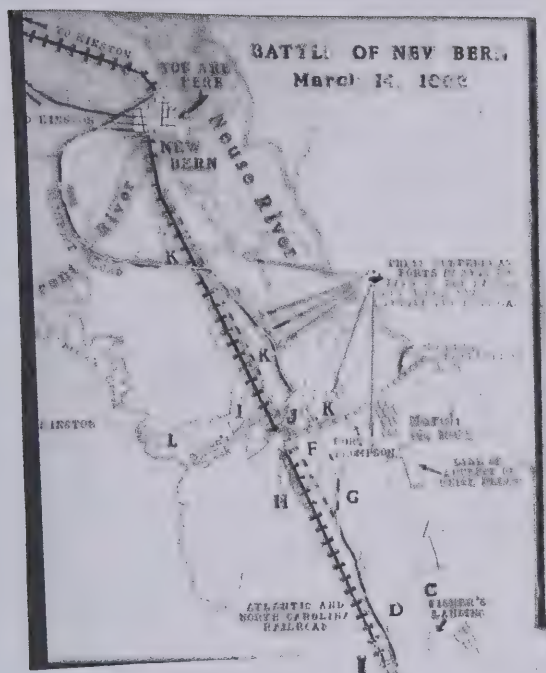
I am glad you sent a box of things although I am well at present. Are farmers planting yet? Are trees leaved out? How is Grandmother suited with the change? I heard Col. J. A. Tuller did not like Alonzo coming onto Grandmothers'. Is that so? Give my respects to all inquiring friends. Have you received the money I sent home. I sent it with Lieut. March's directed to Anna (?). There was $25.00 of it. Send some stamps.

Direct Newbern

Yours etc,

O. C. Case

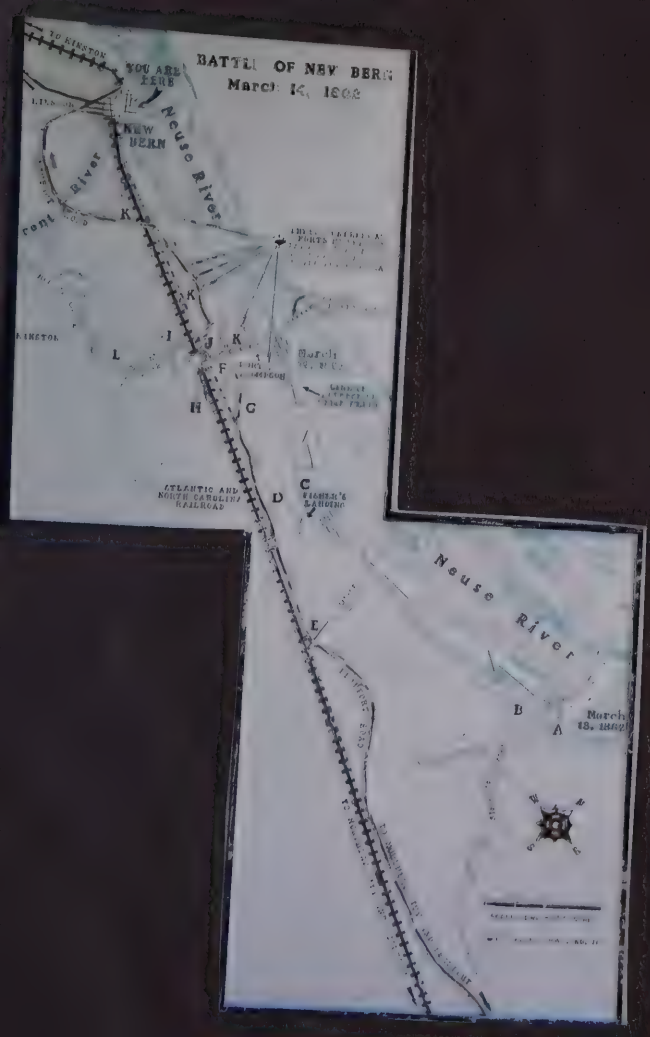
5/8/1862


BATTLE OF NEW BERN
March 14, 1862
YOU ARE HERE
NEW BERN
Neuse River
River
K
I
J
L
F
H
G
C
D
FISHER'S LANDING
ATLANTIC AND NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD


BATTLE OF NEW BERN


Neuse River
E
B
A
March 13, 1862

PRICE
$10.64
DEPT 85
11:02:10 11.57
THANK YOU
FOR SHOPPING
AT WAL MART
PHOTO CENTER
HP 4X6
38 10.64
TOTAL $10.64
485802-10198


BATTLE OF NEW BERN
March 14, 1862
TO KINSTON
YOU ARE HERE
NEW BERN
Neuse River
Trent River
Neuse River
ATLANTIC AND NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD
FISHER'S LANDING
March 13, 1862
A
B
C
D
E
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L

BATTLE OF NEW BERN

PRELUDE: Union General Ambrose E. Burnside's Division captured Roanoke Island on February 8, 1862. This success provided the Union forces with an excellent base for their next expedition - the capture of New Bern.

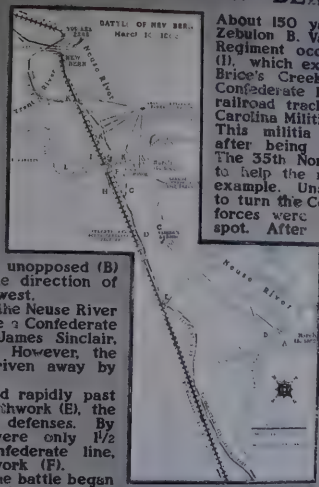
ACTION: On March 12, 1862 Union land and naval forces under joint command of General Burnside and Commodore S. C. Rowan, arrived at the mouth of Slocum's Creek (A). Early on March 13 gunboats shelled the nearby woods. Soon Union infantry landed unopposed (B) and began marching in the direction of New Bern, 16 miles northwest.

The Union Fleet moved up the Neuse River to Fisher's Landing (C) where a Confederate force (D), under Colonel James Sinclair, awaited the Union advance. However, the Confederates were soon driven away by heavy naval gunfire.

The Union Army advanced rapidly past the undefended Croatan Earthwork (E), the first line of Confederate defenses. By nightfall Union troops were only 1½ miles from the main Confederate line, the Fort Thompson Earthwork (F).

At 7:30 A.M. on March 14 the battle began with an attack on the Confederate left flank by General John G. Foster's Brigade (G). The Confederates, ably led by General Lawrence O'B. Branch and protected by the heavy guns of Fort Thompson, were able to hold their position.

Soon, General Jesse L. Reno's Brigade (H) attacked the Confederate right flank. Here the Confederate defense line ended at the railroad.



About 150 yards to the rear, Colonel Zebulon B. Vance's 26th North Carolina Regiment occupied a line of rifle pits (I), which extended ½ mile west toward Brice's Creek. The weak spot in the Confederate line was the 150 yards of railroad track, guarded by some North Carolina Militia under Colonel H. J. B. Clark. This militia retreated (J) immediately after being exposed to Union gunfire. The 35th North Carolina Regiment, to help the militia, soon followed their example. Unsuccessful in their efforts to turn the Confederate flanks, the Union forces were able to exploit this weak spot. After an initial failure, Foster's and Reno's troops, assisted by General John G. Parke's Brigade, managed to occupy the Fort Thompson Line from the river to the railroad. Vance, whose men continued to resist, soon learned that the other Confederate forces were retreating (K) toward New Bern. After some delay, Vance managed to withdraw his men (L) across Brice's Creek in the direction of Kinston.

By nightfall New Bern had been occupied by Burnside's Army. The Confederates were in full retreat toward Kinston, 35 miles inland.

The victory at New Bern provided the Union Army with an excellent base strategically located on the mainland of North Carolina. The town would remain under Union control for the rest of the war. The stage was now set for the Fort Macon Campaign, March 23-April 26, 1862.

BATTLE OF NEW BERN

PRELUDE: Union General Ambrose E. Burnside's Division captured Roanoke Island on February 8, 1862. This success provided the Union forces with an excellent base for their next expedition - the capture of New Bern.

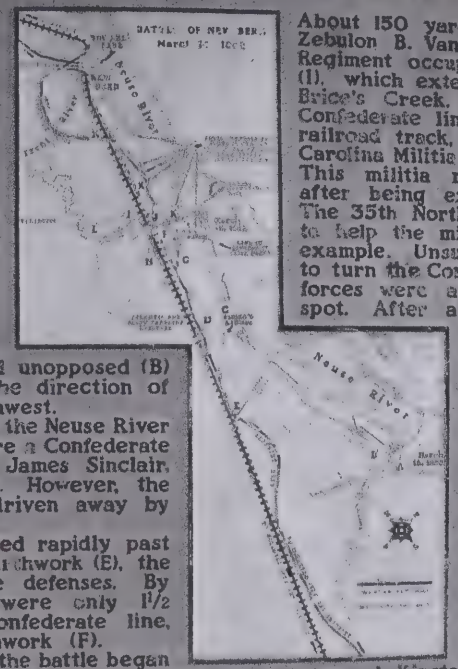
ACTION: On March 12, 1862 Union land and naval forces under joint command of General Burnside and Commodore S. C. Rowan, arrived at the mouth of Slocum's Creek (A). Early on March 13 gunboats shelled the nearby woods. Soon Union infantry landed unopposed (B) and began marching in the direction of New Bern, 16 miles northwest.

The Union Fleet moved up the Neuse River to Fisher's Landing (C) where a Confederate force (D), under Colonel James Sinclair, awaited the Union advance. However, the Confederates were soon driven away by heavy naval gunfire.

The Union Army advanced rapidly past the undefended Croatan Earthwork (E), the first line of Confederate defenses. By nightfall Union troops were only 1½ miles from the main Confederate line, the Fort Thompson Earthwork (F).

At 7:30 A.M. on March 14 the battle began with an attack on the Confederate left flank by General John G. Foster's Brigade (G). The Confederates, ably led by General Lawrence O'B. Branch and protected by the heavy guns of Fort Thompson, were able to hold their position.

Soon, General Jesse L. Reno's Brigade (H) attacked the Confederate right flank. Here the Confederate defense line ended at the railroad.



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Newbern, N. C.

May 24th, 1862

Dear Sister,

The last mail for this division having been miscarried, we have been a week without mail matter and being tired of waiting have concluded to write again, mail or not. There has been no particular change in the department since last report. The season is advancing rapidly. Blackberries are ripe in abbundance and just outside the guard they are plenty but we cannot get at them but the darkies have full swing at them for they can go out and in when they please. The berries are different from those north. They taste more like a mulberry and the vines have not near as many or as long thorns as there. There is quite a peach orchard just outside of camp. The fruit is about as large as a small butternut and grows quite fast. The land here is fertile (or at least looks so) and is covered over with weeds, wild vines etc. in abundance. It looks too bad to see it lie uncultivated when good land is so scarce in these parts, but the owner being "Secesh" thought that he was not wanted and when he heard of our approach "vamoosed the ranch".

The expedition has three engines put together and soon we shall have steam cars running over the rails and things will have a more business like aspect. Rumor says that any gunboats are to go to Charleston; how much truth there is to this remains to be seen. Rumor from James River that the Monitor had a shot put through her and the Galena was riddled and obliged to put back for repairs. Rumor that Beauregard has surrendered with 25,000 prisoners. Can't quite see it.

I do not think this regiment will see any more service, but everyone has his own opinion. The Colonel reported to the Gen. yesterday that we had but 350 men upon duty and they were not fit for a long march or heavy fatigue. We are thrown out of position in the brigade and are not brigaded at all at present. Many think that we shall never move again until we move for Conn.

We have 2 new Surgeons; 1 hired for 30 days, the other for 60. Dr. Pease from Thompsonville is one and Dr. Holcomb from somewhere near New Haven is the other. We also have a new Chaplain; he appears to be a very nice man. I do not think he will come up to Dr. Woolley.

Alonzo asked me what was going to be the next news of Burnside. We do not know as much of his movements or intended movements as you do. He has at and around Newbern 20,000 men which are able with the immense fortifications to resist a force of 100,000 men if they should slip through Mac's fingers.

George Lewis is quite sick in the hospital. Benejah is healthy and as full of life as ever.

I was very much surprised and rejoiced to hear that Father attended church again. He will enjoy it much better than heretofore. I should like very much to take a look into the kitchen and see you all if only for a short time but that is not possible at present, but I trust it will be in a few weeks. I was glad to hear that Elfrida Case was getting better.

Do you get any news of Gen. Hunter's division? We have heard nothing from them since the taking of Fort Pulaski. We are daily looking for the taking of Charleston and Savannah.

You asked me to name Alonzo's boy. I have thought over the whole category of names from Adam down to the last edition and I do not find any to suit me. I think if Alonzo wishes to hand his name down to posterity, it is a good time to do it, but I should adopt some other name in place of Grove. If I was going to name a child I think I should take some fashionable name and pick out the most frenchified different name it was possible to find but everyone to their notion. You might name him after some of our great Generals now in the field.

How does Col. Case take his wife's death? I reckon it would go rather hard with him, feeble as he is.

My hair is growing out fast; it will be fit to cut in a few weeks. How is fruit this season? Is there going to be many apples? Write soon. Give my love to Julia. Remember me to all inquiring friends, James in particular.

Yours,

O. C. Case

5/24/1962

Newbern

May 30th, 1862

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 19th was received the 17th (sic) inst. and was read with interest. Everything remains here the same as at last advice with the exception of a change in the officers of the company. Lieut. W. P. Marsh has been promoted to Capt. of Co. F. It was a surprise to our company as well as theirs and it was universally regretted by the men as he was an officer thought everything of by them. How it will go down in Co. F. I do not know for the Lieut. that came out with them as first Lieut. is in the same position at present while our old Lieut. came out as 2nd Lieut. of this company. He was presented with a sword and sash by the boys. It took him entirely by surprise and his attempt to make a speech was a failure. Capt. Ward has been promoted to Major, our old Major Appelman having been promoted to Lieut. Col.

I am on guard today for the first in a long time and am writing this by the guard tent for we are not allowed to go to our tents for 24 hours. It is reported today that Gen. Foster's brigade are coming this side of the Trent to build a fort.

The Paymaster has just come up9on the grounds to pay off and I expect we shall get our pay ere long. It is overdue since May 1st. I may get it so as to send some in this letter. I shall see about Mr. Bacon's letter the first opportunity which I think will be tomorrow for the old guard have a pass to the city the next day after having been upon duty.

I understand that our regiment is to be filled up. We are not sorry for the guard duty is rather irksome for the well ones for there is so many off from duty.

We have just been up and got our pay but I will not send it home until I hear form the bounty check which I sent when I first came here. The letter is directed to A. G. Case, Simsbury, and made payable to him in order so that if he does not get it I shall not lose it and the money together by express.

I received my box long ago, sooner than I did the letter you sent with it. I presume ere this you have received the letter acknowledging the receipt of it. I can tell you I enjoyed it hugely and I think it did me much good. The cheese is excellent, I think

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Newbern

June 3rd, 1862

Dear Sister,

When I stopped writing the other day I did not expect that so long a time would elapse ere I should again resume my pen but it being impossible for me to finish it that day as I had (no) envelopes with me.

The last day of May we were ready and in line to go over to Newbern. The was _____ (words missing)_____ looked like, but was oppresively warm. Before we got to the city it commenced raining and we had the pleasure of standing in the street about ½ an hour and then marching back again. The new bridge over the Trent is all done buy laying the track and fixing the draw. It was planked for us to walk over. I was surprised at the distance across (for the Trent is a small stream compared with the Neuse) which is at least ½ mile and the distance from where we were encamped to the bridge must be ¾ of a mile at least. It brightened up in the P.M. We were again ordered to prepare for review and again took up the line of march for the metropolis. We were reviewed and inspected by Gen Burnside and aides and paraded nearly all over the city.

Tonight a number fainted and had to be taken out of the ranks during the inspection which was tedious. As soon as our regiment reached the bridge to go back, I fell out and after resting a short time went back into the city, bought a good supper and then strolled around where I pleased, my gun and equipments being as good as a pass for the patrol took me for one of themselves. I did not arrive in camp until 8'clock.

Newbern is one of the pleasantest cities I ever saw for its streets are shaded by large trees which meet overhead which makes the streets pleasant that otherwise would be uninhapitable. The streets are regularly laid out but the houses for the most part are low wooded buildings and would compare unfavorable with any out of the way neighborhood at the North. Sunday I was again over to the city for the old guard have the priviledge of one day to the city and the day upon review did not count.

We have just got a new programme for the duties of the day. Revellie at 5 o'clock A. M, Drill 7.30 to 9 A. M, Batallion drill 4 to 6.30 P.M, Taps 8.25. These are the principal changes.

Fredricksburg, VA
TO
Sharpsburg, MD

118 Miles

North past Washington, DC

NW past Frederick, MD
TO Sharpsburg, MD

5/30/1862

the best I ever ate. Dried beef also and the brandies and wine, well, I shall not attempt to describe them.

Give my love to all, especially Alonzo, wife and children and Grandmother. I do not know as you can read this. I think you will find it harder than Mr. Bacon's writing. My health is good at present and I enjoy it. I do not know but you will think I spend a good deal of my money. I am not in the hospital as nurse.

Write soon

O. C. Case

I cannot get Mr. B's letter through at present but will as soon as possible. Please write whether A. G. received check for state bounty for if he did not it will be necessary to get a new one.

Remember me to all.

O. C. Case

6/3/1862

Original Civil War letter, 4 pages in period ink:

Newberne June 6th 1862

Dear Friend,

Yours of the 27th inst was duly received and read with much interest. I learned more of the victories and success of our forces then I have gathered from any other source and I can assure you every victory encourages the heart of the soldier greatly. Our division was reviewed by General Burnside and staff at Newberne last week and today we were to have a brigade drill but the rain prevented it. It appears by the report at present that Banks' retreat was only a ruse to draw the rebels into a trap which succeeded admirably. There is a report here this morning that there was a battle at Richmond last Saturday but a storm coming on caused a cessation of hostilities. We have heard no further particulars. Our encampment here is the pleasantest in the division and under the strict security rules which are now adopted, I think it can not fail to be as healthy as any other in this region. The surgeon has ordered whisky and quinine to be dealt out each day to the men to keep off intermittent fever so prevalent in these latitudes. We have has a slight change in the program of affairs here at camp for a few days past. Reveille at 5 A.M., Guard mounting at 7, Drill from 8:30 until 10, Battalion drill from 4 to 5:30, roll call at 8:30, Taps at 8:45. I do not like the idea of going to bed at this early hour. The city of Newberne is one of the pleasantest cities I ever was in. It resembles New Haven as far as the large shade trees are concerned. But in one thing it is deficient, that is in large clocks or splendid residences and in fact the buildings would not compare favorably with those in one of our towns. The population seems to be comprised mostly of Negros as you see but a few other persons in the street. What few nice residences there is are occupied by officers and their waiters and it is not an uncommon thing to hear the tunes of a piano or melody singing from some officers quarters as you pass through the streets. Well I suppose that a piano is better to be used then to lie still and for this reason the soldiers cultivate music so that the instruments may be kept in tune. How long we shall stay here and where we shall go to when we leave are all questions for the guessers. The railroad bridge across the Trent between here and the city is nearly completed and the steam whistle of the locomotive will soon be sounding in our midst. The weather here for the most part is uncomfortably warm at present except when we have rain and then the air is so close that one can hardly breathe. Lieutenant W. P. Marsh has been promoted to Captain of the Company F. I can tell you our company felt bad to lose him as he was thought of very much by his men. Orderly William J. Groatch has been promoted to Lieutenant and is just the man for the place. He was presented with a sword by the company the same day he was promoted.
Remember me to all.
Yours
O. C. Case

Source: http://www.excelsiorbrigade.com/catalog/details/?/LTR/183/0/81

8th Connecticut Infantry - Killed at Antietam

Return to Search Results

Item Details

Item Number: LTR-183
Category: Letters

Letter Date: June 6, 1862
Name on Letter: Oliver C. Case

Price: $245

Description

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Remember me to all.
Yours
O. C. Case

Actions

Add Item to Shopping Cart

Ask a Question About this Item

[illegible] June 6th 1861

Dear Sam

[illegible]

In camp near Fredricksburg, Va.
August 7th, 1862

Dear Sister,

Knowing you would be anxious to know of my whereabouts, I take the first opportunity of addressing a few lines to you.

We left camp at Newport News, Saturday, August 2nd about 10 o'clock P.M. and went aboard the steamer "Columbia." I was one of the detail of 75 men to load and unload baggage and convey it aboard. We were detailed at 4 P.M. and finished at 3 A.M. Wednesday morning. I can tell you we felt like sleep about the time we finished our work.

We were all put upon one small steamer – baggage, horses and all – and the weather was hot, hotter, hottest. You can judge of the room we had but I was fortunate enough to get a place upon the hurricane deck and got all the breeze there was. We left the dock, or rather the steamer started the trip, about noon. We left Fortress Monroe at 4 P.M, arriving at Aquia Creek next P.M. Went ashore next (Tuesday) morning, took the cars for the South. Here again I was fortunate enough to get on top of a box car and was quite comfortable while the train was in motion. The road runs through the finest country I ever saw and contrasts strangely with the country we have seen heretofore. The place where we at last brought up is the pleasantest place I ever saw. The railroad runs through a fertile valley with low hills upon each side. We toiled up one of these hills to the east with our knapsacks and accoutrements on under a blazing sun, many falling out by the way. After supper, on reaching the top of the hill, we had a splendid view of the city of Fredricksburg and the village of Falmouth which lie west of the railroad upon either side of the Rappahannock. There are very many nice farm houses surrounded by any quantity of shade and fruit trees – some built the same style as Chester Seymour's, but nicer. One peculiarity about the hilly land here is that it is so free from stones of any size and the land is comparatively smooth and the hills nearly regular. I saw some that were perfect cones and others that are in ranges so the sides are like the sides of a huge roller.

In the P.M. we were marched down the hill to the opposite side of the railroad where we bivouacked for the night. Yesterday pitched tents and commenced

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In the P.M. we were marched down the hill to the opposite side of the railroad where we bivouacked for the night. Yesterday pitched tents and commenced

housekeeping. We have not had any rations yet but lucky for us we were paid off before we started.

There are picketing skirmishes nearly every _____(words missing)_____. We shall probably advance in a short time.

Enclosed find 30 dollars. I received express bill yesterday. Think the box will be forwarded without doubt as letters from Newport News are forwarded daily. I send you by mail the paper published here. Direct: Burnside's division, Fredricksburg, Va. via Washington

Aug. 9th

I gave this to the Chaplain to send by express but could not. I have to take out the money.

O. C. Case

8/7/1862

Letter
J. C. Case
Greenville Va

Hi Charlotte 8/21/15

I have had this letter for a long time. I was going through my files and found this letter from J. C. Case

As you can see it was written from Goldsboro, NC on March 28th, 1865. This would have been about the time Sherman and his troops were in N.C.

He mentions "we were paid last Nov before we left Atlanta...." this would lead me to believe he was there with Sherman.

While I was reading the letter again I saw the name Miss S. A. Baion. I have not been able to find anything on J. C. Case. Any ideas or leths of these people — who they were, who they were related to, or what Regiment was J. C. Case in?

Once again we appreciated your kindness and hospitality. We enjoyed meeting you and enjoyed all that you shared with us.

Dick Converse

Goldsboro, NC

Mch 28th, 1865

My Dear Sister

Your favor of Feby 19 th has just come to hand and indeed I was glad to get it. I think in fact I know that you are improving both in writing and composing and I am very glad to know that such is the case. I hope you will be a good pensman and I believe you will be if you only practice when you have opportunities. I have answered all the letters you ever wrote to me. Besides I have written several to which I have had no answer. The fault must be with the mails. I have but very few correspondents now and so I get very few letters. No I do not get any letters from Mifs [f was used when double "s" is used] S. A. Bacon lately. None since last June. I answered that but received no reply. So, of course, I had no more to say. When you see her give her my regards.

I have not heard from Tom for a long-long time. I am sorry he has such hard times. I guess the boy is a little homesick but he was determined to go to war. I told him to stay at home but he would go. Maybe I will see him after while. I always get enough to eat if Uncle Sam don't furnish it I buy it. I am not going to go hungry as long as I have money or my credit is good.

As to shells mother wants me to send her. I can't get them now for we are a good distance from the sea shore. I could get a good nice things but I never have any way of carrying as far as I would have to. We were paid last Nov before we left Atlanta and expect to be paid again here.

Now tell me are you ever going to take music lessons or not. I want to know if you will. I will pay the expenses and if you won't I will save my money and buy a favor. We expect to stay here two or three weeks. I have not got my quarters fixed up yet. I have been at work nearly all day and am very tired just now. I will surely write you again before we leave here and I want you to write every time you feel like it. Give my love to Lide Eve and Ma and you must not weigh more than two hundred when I get home.

Yours Affectionately,

J C. Case

What has become of C. D. Jun. I send you a Johnnie love letter.

I don't suppose _____ that you can read it but may be can find someone that can. I got in South Carolina keep it safe.

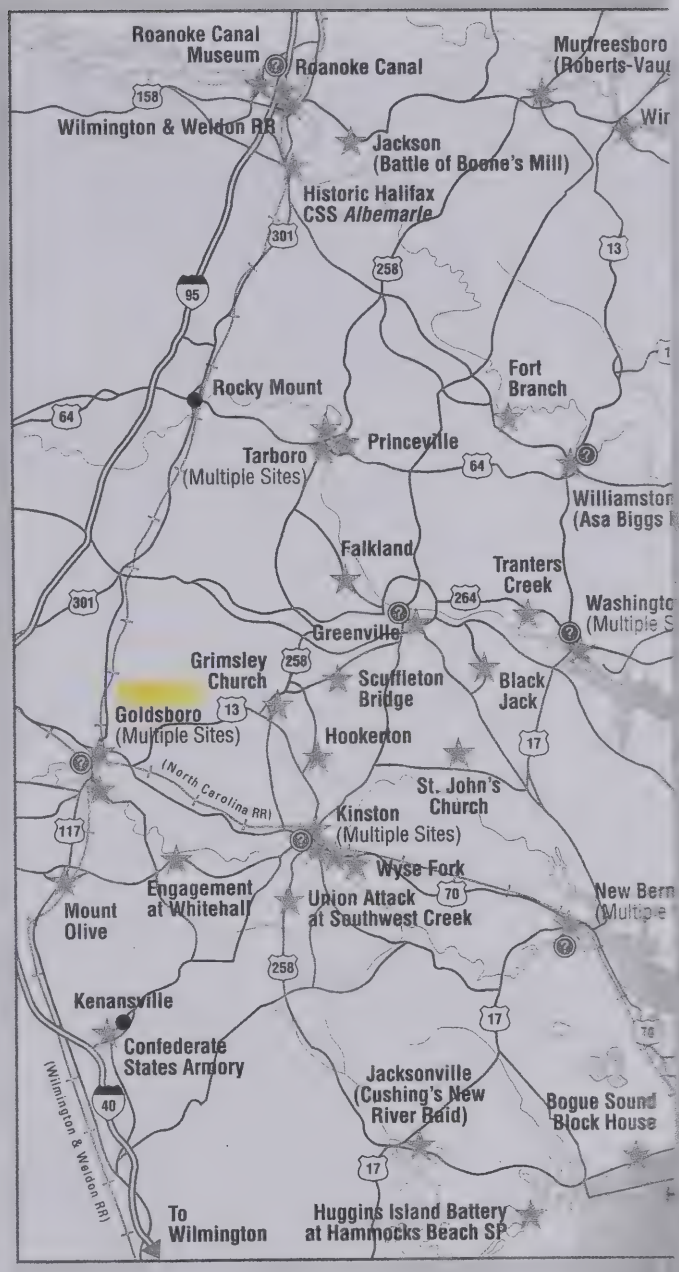
CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN

On December 21, 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman completed his "March to the Sea" and captured Savannah, Georgia. He soon headed north through the Carolinas, planning ultimately to link his army with those that Union general-in-chief Ulysses S. Grant accompanied in Virginia.

Sherman marched into South Carolina on February 1, 1865. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston concentrated his forces in central North Carolina. Sherman divided his army into left and right wings and entered the Tar Heel State early in March. Union Gen. John M. Schofield's troops, en route to Goldsboro from Wilmington, repulsed Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's forces at Wyse Fork near Kinston on March 8–10.

Sherman occupied Fayetteville the next day, then marched north. On March 16, Confederate Gen. William J. Hardee delayed Sherman's left wing near Averasboro. Johnston attacked Sherman three days later at Bentonville, where the Confederates at first routed the lead Federal division. The two Union wings then merged and almost severed Johnston's line of retreat on March 21. He withdrew toward Smithfield that night, and Sherman reached Goldsboro and Schofield on March 23.

Sherman advanced toward Raleigh on April 10, while Johnston retreated to Greensboro. Learning of Gen. Robert E. Lee's April 9 surrender at Appomattox Court House, they came to terms on April 26 at Bennett Place near Durham after much negotiation. Johnston surrendered almost 90,000 Confederate troops in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.



April 17–20 Battle of Plymouth, N.C.

May 4–June 20 Overland Campaign, Va.

May 5–6 Battle of the Wilderness, Va.

May 8–19 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Va.

May 31–June 12 Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.

June 15 Siege of Petersburg begins, Va.

September 29 Battle of Chaffin's Farm and New Market Heights, Va.

June 22–30 Wilson-Kautz Raid, Va.

May 2–October 19 Shenandoah Valley Camp

May 15 Battle of New Market, Va.

September 19 Third Battle of Winchester, Va.

May 26–June 21 Hunter's Raid, Va.

October 19 Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.

October 27 Cushing Torpedoes CSS Al

and you must not weigh more than two hundred when I get home.

Yours Affectionately
J. W. Case

Yet it has become of, E. D. Jim,
I send you a Johnnie Cake
letter. Just ~~[illegible]~~ that
you can read it but may be
you can find ~~some one~~ that
can, I legit in South Carolina
keep it safe.

Dear friend I will soon have to close
I hope you will Remember me
if you in earth no more I see

Goldsboro N C
Mch 28th 1865

My Dear Sister

Your favor of
Feby 19th has just come to hand
and indeed I was glad to get
it. I think - in fact I know
that you are improving both in
writing and composing, and I
am very glad to know that such
is the case. I hope you will be
a good penman. and I believe
you will be if you only practice
when you have opportunities.
I have answered all the letters
you ever wrote to me. besides
I have written several to which I have
had no answer. the fault must
be with the mails. I have but
very few correspondents now and so
I get but very few letters. ~~No~~ I do

not get any letters from Mrs S. A. Bacon lately. none since last June. I answered that but never got no reply. so of course I had no more to say. when you see her give her my regards.

I have not heard from Tom for a long-long time. I am sorry he has such hard times. I guess the Boy is a little homesick. but he was determined to go to war. I told him to stay at home. but he would go! May be I will get to see him after while. I always get enough to eat. if Uncle Sam dont furnish it I buy it. I am not going to go hungry as long as I have money or my credit is good.

As to the shells Mother wants me to send her. I cant get them now for we are a good distance from the sea shore. I could get a good many nice things but I never have any way of carrying as far as I would have to. we were paid last Nov before we left Atlanta. and expect to be paid again here.

now tell me are you ever going to take music lessons? or not, I want to know. if you will I will pay the expenses and if you want I will save my money and buy a farm. we expect to stay here two or three weeks. I have not got my quarters fixed up yet I have been at work nearly all day. and am very tired just now. I will surely write you again before we leave here. and I want you to write every time you feel like it. give my love to Lido Ella and Ma

Case watched a friend die and said it was "the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed." Henry Sexton died a horrific death from jaundice aboard a schooner. This man received no attention from a doctor.

Case describes illnesses of his own. We know that the number of deaths from sickness during the war was staggering.

Oliver Cromwell Case's last letter sent to his sister was dated Aug. 7, 1862. He had served his country for almost a year.

He was killed Sept. 17, 1862 during the battle of Antietam in Maryland, described as the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. His older brothers, Alonzo and Ariel, fighting with the 16th Regiment, learned that only about 10 of the men from the 8th Regiment survived.

The brothers had to wait two days for permission to search for Oliver's body.

In "Recollections of Camp and Prison Life," Alonzo wrote, "The ground for acres and perhaps for miles were (sic) strewn with dead and wounded." Locating Oliver and seeing the wound to his head suggested he was killed instantly.

The brothers wrapped Oliver in a blanket and pinned identification on him prior to digging his grave. Three months later, their father had Oliver's remains taken to Simsbury for burial.

Richard Converse learned he is a third cousin four times removed from the young man who now occupies his life. When he develops a curiosity about something or begins a project, he devotes his days and nights to learn as much as possible.

In recent years, Converse, who lives in South Carolina, successfully researched other Case descendants and personally led the effort to get an Ohio Historical marker in Highbanks Metro Park.

It recognizes five Case family men who were members of the Union Land Co., which purchased land in Liberty Township in 1806. He also obtained a Memorial Grave Marker to honor Seth Case, who served in the Revolutionary War in Connecticut but died in Ohio. That marker is in The Liberty Church Cemetery.

Carole Wilhelm is a member of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society.

Carole Wilhelm

Editors Note: Carole Wilhelm, a friend and acquaintance for several years, who lives in Powell, Ohio, writes the History Today column for the This Week Newspaper. She is active in the Powell-Liberty Historical Society and in the community. I appreciated this article because Carole captured the essence of the story in early 2010 long before I had my thoughts and the writing completed.

The following is a copy of a four page letter written on December 15, 1861 by Oliver Cromwell Case in his own handwriting addressed to his brother Alonzo Job Case written from Annapolis, Maryland as follows:

To A. J. Case, Esq.

Hartford, Conn.

Letter received June 7, 2010 from:

Connecticut Historical Society—

Museum and Library

One Elizabeth Street

Hartford, Ct. 06105

EIGHTH CONNECTICUT INFANTRY

The Eighth Connecticut Infantry was organized in Hartford, Connecticut, during the late summer of 1861. It was mustered into Federal service there on Septe,ber 21, 1861.

More detailed information has been found on the various companies of the regiment. This material is shown below.

"A"	men from Hartford, Bridgeport, East Windsor, Naugatuck, and Manchester
"B"	men from Enfield, Suffield, Simsbury, and East Windsor
"C"	men from New Hartford, Granby, Colebrook, Enfield, Canton, and Torrington
"D"	men from Norwich, Lebanon, and Windham
"E"	men from Waterbury, Litchfield, Rocky Hill, Woodbury, and Cornwall
"F"	men from Plainfield, Canterbury, Brooklyn, Griswold, and Sterling
"G"	men from Groton and Stinington
"H"	men from Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, and Wilson
"I"	men from New Milford, Brookfield, Newtown, Washington, and Danbury
"K"	men from Meriden

Like almost all Civil War units the Eighth Connecticut Infantry was often known by an alternate designation derived from the name of its commanding officer. Unofficial names of this type used by or for the unit are shown below.

John E. Ward's Infantry
Hiram Appelman's Infantry
Henry M. Hoyt's Infantry

On October 17, 1861, the regiment was ordered to Annapolis, Maryland. There it joined Butler's North Carolina Expeditionary Corps. In April, 1862, the regiment joined the Department of North Carolina. It served in that command until July, 1862. The unit then joined the Army of the Potomac. It served in that Army until April, 1863. Placed in the Department of Virginia, the regiment served in that command until July, 1863. This command was then renamed the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. In April, 1864, the regiment joined the Army of the James. It served in that Army until August, 1865. The unit then returned to the Department of Virginia, serving in that command for the remainder of its career. Listed below are the specific higher command assignments of the regiment.

Parke's Third Brigade, North Carolina Expeditionary Corps	Oct. 1861 - April 1862

First Brigade, Third Division, Department of North Carolina	April 1862 - July 1862
Second Brigade, Third Division, IX Corps, Army of the Potomac	July 1862 - April 1863
Second Brigade, Second Division, VII Corps, Department of Virginia	April 1863 - July 1863
Second Brigade, Getty's Division, U. S. Forces at Portsmouth, Department of Virginia and North Carolina	July 1863 - Jan. 1864
Attached, Sub-District of Albermarle, North Carolina, Department of Virginia and North Carolina	Jan. 1864 - April 1864
Second Brigade, First Division, XVIII Corps, Army of the James	April 1864 - Aug. 1864
Provost Guard, XVIII Corps, Army of the James	Aug. 1864 - Feb. 1865
Second Brigade, Third Division, XXIV Corps, Army of the James	Feb. 1865 - July 1865
Second Provisional Brigade, XXIV Corps, Department of Virginia	July 1865 - Aug. 1865
Attached, Department of Virginia	Aug. 1865 - Dec. 1865

The Eighth Connecticut Infantry took part in more than forty engagements during its career. These are identified below. Numbers after the events locate them on the map following this history.

Burnside's Expedition to Hatteras Inlet (1) and Roanoke Island (2), N. C.	Jan. 7 - Feb. 8, 1862
Battle, Roanoke Island, N. C. (2)	Fbe. 8, 1862
Movement to Newberne, N. C. (3)	March 11 - 13, 1862
Battle, Newberne, N. C. (3)	March 14, 1862
Operations against Fort Macon, N. C. (4)	March 23 - April 26, 1862
Skirmish, Fort Macon, N. C. (4)	April 12, 1862
Capture, Fort Macon, N. C. (4)	April 26, 1862
Movement to Newport News, Va. (5)	July 3 - 5, 1862

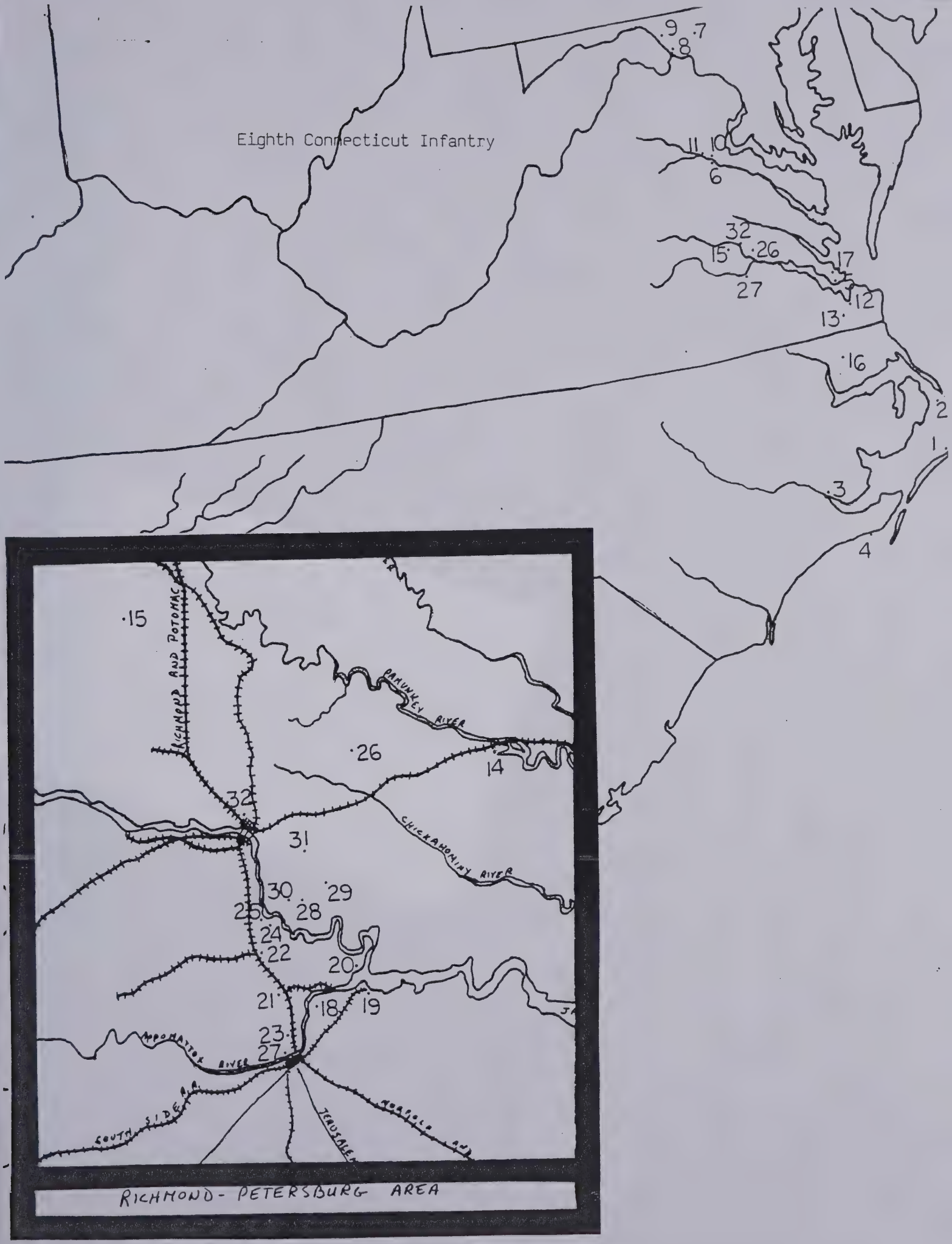
Movement to Fredericksburg, Va. (6)	Aug. 1 - 5, 1862
Maryland Campaign	Sept. 2 - 10, 1862
Skirmish, Frederick, Md. (7)	Sept. 12, 1862
Engagement, Turner's Gap, South Mountain, Md. (8)	Sept. 14, 1862
Battle, Antietam, Sharpsburg, Md. (9)	Sept. 16 - 17, 1862
Movement to Falmouth, Va. (10)	Oct. 26 - Nov. 10, 1862
Battle, Fredericksburg, Va. (6)	Dec. 12 - 15, 1862
Burnside's "Mud March", Va. (11)	Jan. 20 - 24, 1863
Movement to Suffolk, Va. (12)	Feb. 6 - 9, 1863
Siege, Suffolk, Va. (12)	April 12 - May 4, 1863
Action, Fort Huger, Va.	April 19, 1863
Engagement, Edenton Road, Va. (13)	April 24, 1863
Action, Nansemond River, Suffolk, Va. (12)	May 3, 1863
Siege of Suffolk, Va. raised	May 4, 1863
Dix's Peninsula Campaign, Va.	June 24 - July 7, 1863
Expedition from White House to the South Anna River, Va.	July 1 - 7, 1863
Expedition to South Mills, N. C. (16)	Jan. 12 - 14, 1864
Movement to Yorktown, Va. (17)	April 18 - 21, 1864
Butler's Operations on the South Side of the James River against Petersburg and Richmond, Va. (18)	May 4 - 28, 1864
Occupation, City Point (19) and Bermuda Hundred (20), Va.	May 5, 1864
Engagement, Port Walthall Junction (21), Chester Station (22), Va.	May 7, 1864
Engagement, Swift Creek (Arrowfield Church), Va. (23)	May 9 - 10, 1864
Operations against Fort Darling, Va. (24)	May 12 - 16, 1864
Battle, Drewry's Bluff, Va. (25)	May 14 - 16, 1864
Operations on the Bermuda Hundred Front, Va. (20)	May 17 - 27, 1864

Movement to Cold Harbor, Va. (26)	May 27 - June 1, 1864
Battles about Cold Harbor, Va. (26)	June 1 - 12, 1864
Assault, Petersburg, Va. (27)	June 15, 1864
Siege Operations against Petersburg and Richmond, Va. (18)	June 16, 1864 - April 2, 1865
Assault, Petersburg, Va. (27)	JUne 16, 1864
Assault, Petersburg, Va. (27)	June 18, 1864
Operations on the Bermuda Hundred Front, Va. (20)	Aug. 25 - Sept. 27, 1864
Engagement, Fort Harrison (28), New Market Heights (29), Va.	Sept. 28 - 29, 1864
Engagement, Chaffin's Farm, Va. (30)	Sept. 29 - 30, 1864
Engagement, Fair Oaks, Darbytown Road, Va. (31)	Otc. 27 - 28, 1864
Occupation, Richmond, Va. (32)	April 3, 1865

The regiment served on garrison duty in Richmond until July, 1865. It was then moved to Lynchburg, Virginia. It was finally mustered out of Federal service there on December 12, 1865.

During its career the Eighth Connecticut Infantry sustained the loss of eight officers and one hundred and twelve enlisted men killed or mortally wounded. An additional three officers and one hundred and forty-one enlisted men died from disease or other non-battlefield causes.

Eighth Connecticut Infantry



RICHMOND - PETERSBURG AREA

1/21/2010

Dan Vermulya

Guide @ Antietam

Battlefield

Sharpsburg, VA

50 th Book
Celebration

July 8, 2010

Military Bibliography of the Civil War

Compiled by C. E. DORNBUSCH

Volume One

Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives: Northern States
(in seven parts)

1. Illinois 2. New York 3. New England States
4. New Jersey and Pennsylvania 5. Indiana and Ohio
6. Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
7. Index of Names

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Reference Works

Connecticut. Adjutant-General.

Connecticut men in War of rebellion, corrected, amended or additional records. [Hartford, 1936] 41 folios. 28cm. Reproduced from typewritten copy. NHI NN 398

Caption title. "Connecticut men in the Spanish war, Philippine insurrection and China relief expedition . . ." folio 37-41.

Niven, William John, 1921-

Connecticut for the Union, the role of the state in the Civil war, by John Niven. New Haven, Yale University press, 1965. xviii, (1), 493 p. 1 illus., maps, plates (illus., ports.). 24cm. 399

Military Bibliography of the Civil War

Compiled by C. E. DORNBUSCH

Volume Four

Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives

Union and Confederate Biographies

Morningside

1987

Reference Works

Connecticut. Adjutant-General.

Record of service of Connecticut men in the Army and Navy of the United States, during the War of the rebellion. Compiled by authority of the General assembly, under direction of the Adjutant-general. . . . Hartford, Press of Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1889. xiii, 1071 p. 30cm.

Cited herein as *Record*.

Dyer, Frederick Henry, 1849–1917.

A compendium of the War of the rebellion. 1908 (reprinted 1959).

"Regimental index" 114–116; "Regimental histories" 1006–16. The pagination is the same in the 1959 reprint.

The Union army.

"Record of Connecticut regiments," I (1908) 274–310.

United States. Adjutant General's Office.

Official army register of the volunteer force of the United States army for the years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65. Part I. (New England states). Washington, 1865.

A roster of officers by regiments with an alphabetical index for the six states.

7TH INFANTRY

Mustered in: September 17, 1861.

Mustered out: July 20, 1865.

Record 290–326. History, by William H. Pierpont.

"Southern rights" and Yankee humor, a Confederate-Federal Jacksonville newspaper. *Florida historical quarterly* XXXIV (1955/56) 30–5. facs. *32A*

Captain Valentine B. Chamberlain of the 7th Conn infantry completed and printed an issue of the Jacksonville *Southern rights* that was on the press.

Chamberlain, Valentine B

A letter of. . . . [Hilton head, October 10, 1862] *Florida Historical quarterly* XV (1936/37) 85–95. *32B*

Hawley, Joseph Roswell, 1826–1905.

Comments on General Jones's paper [The battle of Olustee, or Ocean pond, Florida] *BandL* IV 79–80. *33*

Tourtellotte, Jerome, 1837–

A history of Company K of the Seventh Connecticut volunteer infantry in the Civil war, compiled by a member who was second in rank in the company when the Regiment left the State for the front and second in rank in the Regiment when it returned to the State for final discharge. [n. p.] 1910. 217, (1) p. 23cm. DLC NN *34*

On cover: Windham county boys in the Seventh Connecticut. Unit roster 191–209.

Walkley, Stephen, 1832–

History of the Seventh Connecticut volunteer infantry, Hawley's brigade, Terry's division, Tenth army corps, 1861–1865, compiled by Stephen Walkley. [Southington, 1905] 226, 22, lxix, 9 p. illus., plans, port., front. (port.), 2 fold. maps. 21cm. DLC NHi NN *35*

Unit roster lxix p.

Woodford, Milton M 1834–

. . . Letters from the front. Edited by Vaughn D. Bernet. *Florida historical quarterly* XXVII (1948/49) 237–59, 385–403. *35A*

At head of title: [1st installment] A Connecticut Yankee fights at Olustee [2nd installment] A Yankee after Olustee.

See also Title 13.

8TH INFANTRY

Left State: October 17, 1861.

Mustered out: December 12, 1865.

Record 327–58. History, by J. H. Vaill.

De Kay, Sidney

. . . A night attack of cavalry, by Sidney De Kay, late U.S. vols. . . . New York, Printed for the Commandery of the State of New York by D. Appleton and co., 1888. 14 p. 24cm.

The title piece, poetry, p 3–4. NN *35B*

Eaton, Jacob

Memorial of Marvin Wait, (1st Lieutenant Eighth regiment C.V.), killed at the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862. Written by Jacob Eaton (formerly 1st Lieutenant Eighth C.V.). New Haven, Thomas J. Stafford, printer, 1863. 16 p. 23cm. DLC *36*

Smith, Moses

Past mercies: present gratitudes: future duty. A discourse delivered at the camp of the Eighth regt. Conn. vet. vol. infantry, near Ft. Harrison, Varginia [sic] on the annual Thanksgiving day, November 24, 1864, with an appendix [giving the Regiment's history and roster] by Moses Smith, Chaplain 8th C.V. Published by the men of the Regiment. . . . New Haven, J. H. Benham, printer, 1865. 24 p. Ct *36A*

Yates, Walter J

Souvenir of excursion to Antietam and dedication of monuments of the 8th, 11th, 14th and 16th regiments of Connecticut volunteers. [New London] 1894. 61, (5) p. plates (illus., ports.). 18cm. NHi *37*

Introduction signed: Walter J. Yates. Advertising matter, p 61, (5) p.

9TH INFANTRY

Left State: November 4, 1861.

Consolidated into a battalion: October 12, 1864.

Mustered out: August 3, 1865.

Record 359–93. History, by John G. Healy.

Official souvenir program. Dedication of the Ninth regt. C.V. monument at Bay view park, New Haven, Con., Wednesday, August 5, 1903. [New Haven, John J. Kiernan, 1903] 52 p. music, ports. 26½cm. CtY *37A*

Advertising matter included. Illustration of monument on cover.

Murray, Thomas Hamilton, 1857–

History of the Ninth regiment, Connecticut volunteer infantry, "The Irish regiment," in the War of the rebellion, 1861–65. The record of a gallant command on the march, in battle and in bivouac, by Thomas Hamilton Murray. New Haven, Price, Lee & Adkins, 1903. 446 p. col. front. (illus.), plates (illus., ports.). 23½cm. DLC NHi NN *38*

Unit roster [239]–320.

OFFICIAL ARMY REGISTER

OF THE

VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR

THE YEARS 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65.

PART I.

(NEW ENGLAND STATES.)

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APPROVED MARCH 2, 1865.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, August 31, 1865.

EIGHTH REGIMENT.

(This regiment was organized at Hartford, Conn., from the 21st to 27th of September, 1861, to serve three years. On the expiration of its term of service the original members (except veterans) were mustered out, and the organization, composed of veterans and recruits, is still in service.)

(The official list of battles in which this regiment bore an honorable part, is not yet published in orders.)

Colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel.

William M. Pratt.....12 May, 65

Major.

Captains.

Thomas D. Sheffield ....10 July, 63
Andrew M. Morgan.....22 July, 64
George C. Merriam..... 4 Nov.,
Roger M. Ford..... 1 Mar., 65

First Lieutenants.

Sidney De Kay .....25 May, 64
John L. Merriam.....22 July,
Joseph H. Jewett, *Adj't*.. 9 April, 65
David A. Baldwin..... 9 April,
William H. Peck.....10 April,
Fred'k Gollup, *R. Q. M* .. 1 July,
Charles T. Andrews.....13 July,
William Gammell .....15 July,
George P. Edwards .....28 July,

Second Lieutenants.

Surgeon.

James A. Bigelow..... 1 Jan., 65

Assistant Surgeon.

Theodore E. Hamilton..20 June, 64

Chaplain.

Moses Smith.....22 Dec., 63

CASUALTIES.

Resigned, (24.)

Lieut. Colonel Peter L. Cunningham, December 23, 1861.
Lieut. Colonel Andrew Terry, March 28, 1862.
Lieut. Colonel *Hiram Appleman*, December 23, 1862.
Captain *Henry L. Burpee*, December 22, 1861.
Captain Douglass Fowler, January 20, 1862.
Captain Charles W. Nash, March 2, 1862.
Captain Patrick K. Ruth, March 27, 1862.
Captain Elijah Y. Smith, March 28, 1862.
Captain Frederick W. Jackson, May 5, 1862.
Captain *Samuel Glasson*, August 7, 1862.
Captain Walcott P. Marsh, December 22, 1862.
First Lieut. Andrew W. Scott, December 27, 1861.
First Lieut. Henry N. Place, March 18, 1862.
First Lieut. Joseph H. Alexander, *R. Q. M.*, January 8, 1863.
Second Lieut. Francis D. Loomis, January 7, 1862.
Second Lieut. Robert H. Burnside, March 1, 1862.
Second Lieut. Laman Wadham, April 8, 1862.
Second Lieut. *Justin T. Crosby*, April 26, 1862.
Second Lieut. Frederick E. Nearing, April 29, 1862.
Second Lieut. Jeremiah M. Shephard, February 14, 1862.
Second Lieut. *John T. Bronson*, October 2, 1862.
Second Lieut. Charles Shepard, February 14, 1863.
Second Lieut. Daniel McKinnon, April 9, 1863.
Chaplain John M. Morris, September 29, 1863.

Discharged, (23.)

Colonel John E. Ward, March 14, 1865.
Lieut. Colonel Martin B. Smith, January 13, 1865.
Captain *Wolcott P. Marsh*, December 22, 1862.
Captain *James L. Russell*, January 17, 1863.
Captain Roger M. Ford, September 2, 1864.
Captain William J. Roberts, December 21, 1864.
Captain Eugene E. Graves, (Brevet Major September 29 1864,) April 30, 1865.
First Lieut. *Jacob Eaton*, October 29, 1862.
First Lieut. Nelson Bronson, January 17, 1863.
First Lieut. Henry E. Morgan, January 17, 1863.
First Lieut. William J. Boatch, October 24, 1863.
First Lieut. George W. Farnham, May 13, 1865.
First Lieut. Albert T. Booth, June 14, 1865.
Second Lieutenant Milo J. Goodrich, January 27, 1862.
Second Lieut. *Edmund A. Parker*, November 7, 1862.
Second Lieut. *Henry S. Jones*, January 17, 1863.
Second Lieut. Frank W. Spaulding, June 2, 1863.
Second Lieut. Anthony R. Canfield, July 30, 1864.
Second Lieut. Erwin D. Hall, October 10, 1864.
Second Lieut. Alcanzor O. Wells, October 24, 1864.
Second Lieut. Amos L. Keables, May 15, 1865.
Assistant Surgeon *Sabin Stocking*, April 23, 1864.
Chaplain Joseph J. Wolley, March 18, 1862.

Expiration of term of service, (12.)

Captain Henry M. Hoyt, October 15, 1864.
Captain Elam T. Gooderich, November 28, 1864.
Captain Charles M. Coit, May 30, 1865.
Captain James R. Moore, May 30, 1865.
First Lieut. Ambrose M. Dougherty, *R. Q. M.*, October 6, 1864.
First Lieut. Thomas S. Weed, October 16, 1864.
First Lieut. J. Alden Rathburn, December 15, 1864.
First Lieut. Samuel S. Foss, January 29, 1865.
Second Lieut. George M. Stevens, October 14, 1864.

The following is a list of the enlisted men of this regiment to whom medals of honor have been awarded by the Secretary of War:

Corporal Nathan E. Hickock.

Second Lieut. John S. Lane, October 14, 1864.
Second Lieut. John H. Vorra, February 14, 1865.
Surgeon Melancthon Storrs, October 6, 1864.

Promoted, (5.)

Colonel *Edward Harland*, November 29, 1862, to Brigadier General of vols.
Lieut. Colonel Charles L. Upham, April 18, 1863, to Colonel 15th Connecticut vols.
First Lieut. Horace P. Gates, *Adj't*, May 27, 1863, to Captain and *A. A. G.* vols.
First Lieut. *Noah P. Ives*, July 30, 1864, to Captain and *C. S.* U. S. vols.
Assistant Surgeon H. V. C. Holcomb, August 14, 1862, to Surgeon 15th Connecticut vols.

Died, (11.)

Captain John McCall, killed in action near Drury's Bluff, Va., May 16, 1864.
Captain Henry C. Hall, killed in front of Petersburg, Va., July 12, 1864.
First Lieut. *Charles A. Breed*, July 30, 1862, of disease, at Newport News, Va.
First Lieut. *Marvin Wait*, killed in action at Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862.
First Lieut. Edwin G. Main, November 18, 1862, of wounds received in battle at Antietam, Md.
First Lieut. Alfred M. Goddard, May 9, 1864, of wounds.
First Lieut. Levi C. Bingham, May 9, 1864, of wounds received near Petersburg railroad.
First Lieut. James B. Kilbourn, killed in action near Chapin's farm, Va., September 29, 1864.
Second Lieut. *William H. Johnson*, April 6, 1862, of disease, at Morehead City, N. C.
Second Lieut. Charles N. Irvine, killed in action at Chapin's farm, Va., September 29, 1864.
Assistant Surgeon Dewit C. Lathrop, April 18, 1862, at Newbern, N. C.

Dismissed, (1.)

First Lieut. Marcus L. Pelham, December 29, 1864.

Transferred, (1.)

Captain Eleazar H. Ripley, October 7, 1863, to V. R. C.

NOTE 1.—No brevet appointments are entered on this register except those announced in General Orders before August 31, 1865.

NOTE 2.—This regiment not being mustered out in time to have that fact appear on this register, its roster is made up to the 31st of August, 1865.

****

LIST OF SOLDIERS BY REGIMENT AND COMPANY

****

Name		Grave	Co	Reg	State	Arm
EVANS	LEVERETT F.	1139	A	8	CT	INFANTRY
CASE	OLIVER C.	1090	B	8	CT	INFANTRY
STRICKLAND	HENRY E.	1115	C	8	CT	INFANTRY
CASTLE	MORTON	1126	C	8	CT	INFANTRY
WILSON	FREDERICK	1103	D	8	CT	INFANTRY
FARMER	W.	1112	D	8	CT	INFANTRY
FANNING	HENRY C.	1106	D	8	CT	INFANTRY
YEMMONS	JOSEPH	1122	E	8	CT	INFANTRY
BENTLEY	JOHN	1117	F	8	CT	INFANTRY
KIMBALL	ANDREW J.	1111	F	8	CT	INFANTRY
DODGE	HENRY C.	1107	H	8	CT	INFANTRY
LOGAN	GEORGE E.	1123	I	8	CT	INFANTRY
FINKEN	HENRY	1094	K	8	CT	INFANTRY
DAGLE	GEORGE V.	1095	K	8	CT	INFANTRY

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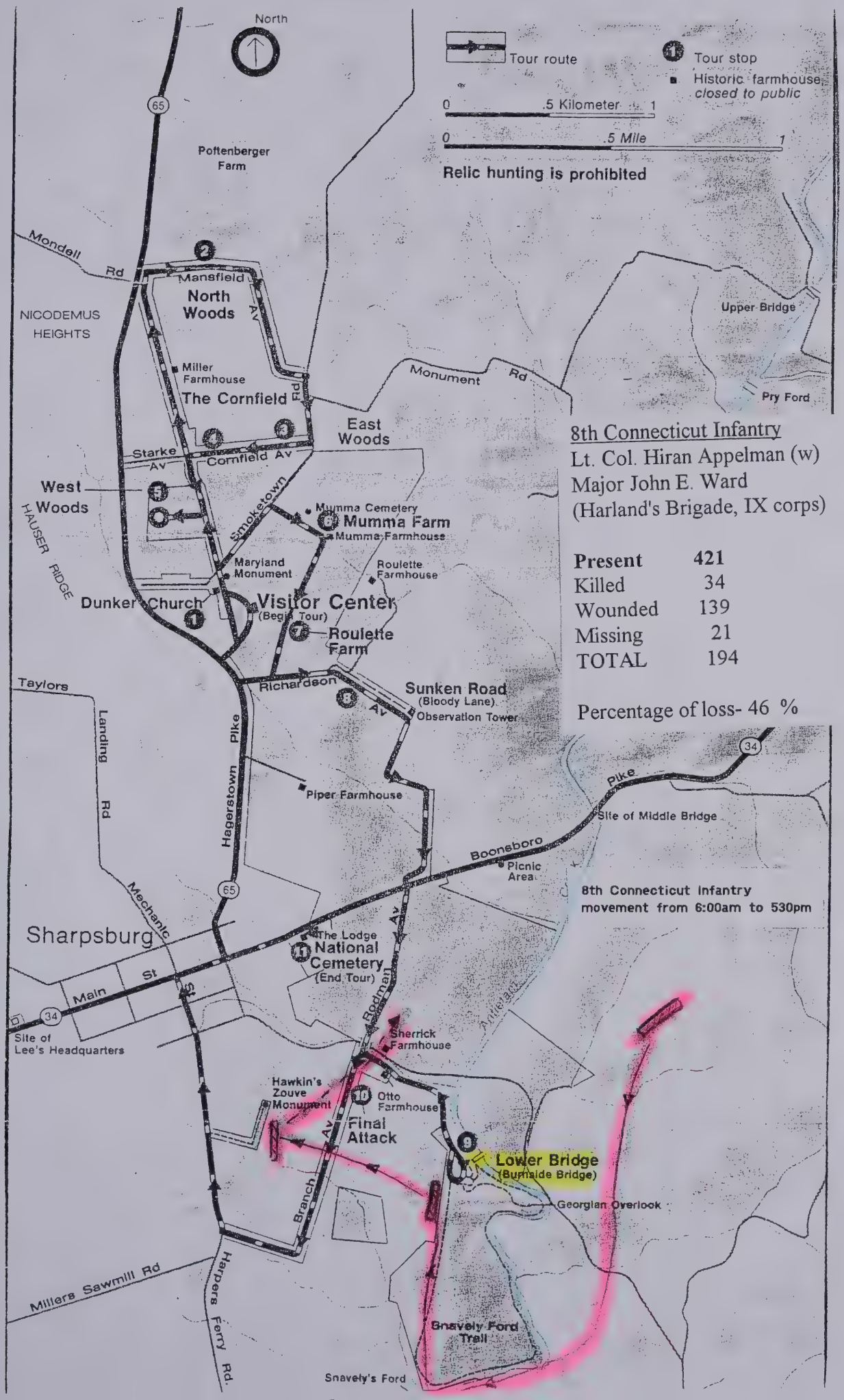

8th Connecticut Infantry
Lt. Col. Hiran Appelman (w)
Major John E. Ward
(Harland's Brigade, IX corps)

Present	**421**
Killed	34
Wounded	139
Missing	21
TOTAL	194

Percentage of loss- 46 %

10M., A. P. Hill's division was at
of Sharpsburg.

ed as rearguard to the divisions of
larch from Pleasant Valley and
omac at Knott Ford at the mouth
reached the south part of the field

nded from the right of Walker's
tam, about one mile and a third
om Pleasant Valley and Harper's

6:00 – 6:20 AM

., A. P. Hill's division was at
harpsburg.

as rearguard to the divisions of
h from Pleasant Valley and
e at Knott Ford at the mouth
ed the south part of the field

ed from the right of Walker's
about one mile and a third
Pleasant Valley and Harper's


Bloody
CREEK
Porterstown
MIDDLE BRIDGE
Newcomer
Boker
SYKES' DIVISION
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
VAN REED
MILLER
GRAHAM
WARREN
LOVELL
STURGIS' DIVISION
NAGLE
BRIDGE
BURNSIDE
SAWYER
CROOK
H. Rohrbach
N. Rohrbach
WHITING
FAIRCHILD
MUDLEMBERG
BENJAMIN
SIMMONS
R. Bone
Miller
MANNING
BARSON
SHAVELY'S FORD
MYERS FORD
N
8:AM


10:30
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LIEUT
H.W. MA
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Position
Published by a
under the directio
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MOORE'S DIVISION
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
VAN REED MILLER GRAHAM
SYKES' DIVISION
WARREN
LOVELL
TWIGGS
ANTIETAM
CREEK
BURNSIDE
BRIDGE
HARLAND
FAIRCHILD
WHITING
MYERS FORD
SHAVELY'S FORD
N
10:30 AM
Grass.
Stubble.
Corn.
Plowed
Outcrop
Contour interval 10
which


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ANTIETAM
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under the direction
Porterstown
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
MORELL'S DIVISION
SYKES' DIVISION
WARREN
WILLCOX'S DIVISION
FAIRCHILD
BURNSIDE'S BRIDGE
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
ANTIETAM CREEK
Contour interval 10
which
Grass.
Stubble.
Corn.
Plowed
Outcrop
12:15 PM

s had lost all or-
and intermingled
town road and
nd Piper's barn;
ion

of the Ante-
approaches


Bloody
Lane
CREEK
MASS. CAVALRY
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
RPSBURG
Lutheran Church
Boonsboro
Stone Hill
Sherrick
Christ
Road
MILLER
RICHARDSON
BRAXTON
GREGG
Blackford
McINTOSH
Berryville
Pike
BRIDGE
COOK
BROOK
EARLAND'S
BOOKMAN'S DIVISION
LAUREL
WHITING
SHAVELY'S ROAD
WYER'S ROAD
N Rohrbach
N

3:30 - 3:45 PM


PSBURG
Bloody
BROOKE
COOK MEACHER
BRANCH
R. H. ANDERSON
Lt. ANDERSON
H. Piper
EVANS
TRIMBLE
LANE
D. Piper
Michael
DAQUIN
HARDAWAY
Reed
GARNETT
JOHNSON
MOODY
BARBOUR
Church
VARLADOOR
JENKINS
BROWN
ROBERTS
BAKER
RELLY
BACHMAN
DRAYTON KEMPER
DRAYTON
KEMPER
FAIRCHILD
WILCOX
MILLER
RICHARDSON
WADDOW
PEGRAM
VA.
ARCHER
PENDER
FIELD
A.P. HILL'S DIVISION
ERLEWAY
Blackford
BRAXTON
BRANCH
MUNFORD
GREGG
S.C.
COOK
CROOK
DURELL
CLARK
EWING
N.H.
McGONN
MULLENBERG
BURNSIDE
BRIDGE
Rohrbach
McMULLEN
N. Rohrbach
SNAVELY'S FORD
MYERS FORD
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
BANDOL
Baker
Newcomb
Boonsboro
VAN REED
TIDBALL
ROBERTSON
FLAGG
MASS. CAVALRY
CREEK
LOWELL
TAFT
WEED
VON KLEIBER
17 U.S.
6 U.S.
14 U.S.
(20 Battalion)
17 Mich. 2 and 10 U.S.
49 N.Y.
Sherrick
Road
4:20 PM


SHARPSBURG
LAWTON TRIMBLE
LANE
S.D. Piper
C. Micheal
Reel
HOOD'S DIVISION (6 P.M.)
R.H. ANDERSON
G.T. ANDERSON
CHARGE OF
Blood
Lane
BROOKE
MEAGHER
CALDWELL
TIDBALL
1 MASS. CAVALRY
CREEK
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
Boonsboro
Newcomer
H. Piper
EVANS
PAGE
GARNETT
CARTER
JENKINS
Lutheran Church
HAINS
VAN REED
ROBERTSON
ANTIETAM
VON KLEISER
WEED
Stone Mill
Sherrick
Burnside Bridge Road
WILLCOX'S DIVISION
FAIRCHILD
BURNSIDE BRIDGE
35 MASS.
21 MASS.
KEMPER
DRAYTON
TOOMBS
GARNETT DRAYTON
RICHARDSON
ARCHER 28 N.C.
PEGRAM
BACHMAN
MILLER
KELLY
CUSHMAN
H. Rohrbach
N. Rohrbach
McMullen
Blackford
BRAXTON
CRENSHAW
PENDER
PEGRAM BRAXTON
SNAVELY'S FORD
MYERS FORD

5:30 PM

SIXTEENTH CONNECTICUT INFANTRY

The Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry was organized in Hartford, Connecticut, during the summer of 1862. It was mustered into Federal service there on August 24, 1862.

More detailed information on the various companies of the unit has been found. This material is shown below.

"A"	men from Hartford and Wethersfield
"B"	men from Hartford, Guilford, East Windsor, and Windsor
"C"	men from Hartford, Farmington, and Rocky Hill
"D"	men from Suffield and Enfield
"E"	men from Canton, Granby, and Simsbury
"F"	men from Hartford
"G"	men from Berlin, East Windsor, Farmington, and Hartford
"H"	men from Manchester, Glastenbury, Bolton, and South Windsor
"I"	men from Stafford, Avon, Vernon, and Willington
"K"	men from Bristol, Farmington, and Burlington

Like almost all Civil War units the Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry was frequently known by an alternate designation derived from the name of its commanding officer. Names of this type used by or for the regiment are shown below.

Francis Beach's Infantry
Frank W. Cheney's Infantry
George A. Washburn's Infantry
Charles L. Upham's Infantry
John H. Burnham's Infantry

On August 29, 1862, the regiment was ordered to Washington, D. C. There it joined the Army of the Potomac. It served in that Army until April, 1863. The unit then joined the Department of Virginia. In July, 1863, the name of this command was changed to the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. It served in that command until January, 1865. The regiment ended its career attached to the Department of North Carolina. The list below shows the specific higher command assignments of the regiment.

Second Brigade, Third Division, IX Corps, Army of the Potomac	Aug. 1862 - April 1863

Second Brigade, Second Division, VII Corps, Department of Virginia	April 1863 - July 1863
Second Brigade, Getty's Division, United States Forces at Portsmouth, Department of Virginia and North Carolina	July 1863 - Jan. 1864
Attached, District of Albermarle, North Carolina, Department of Virginia and North Carolina	Jan. 1864 - April 1864
Attached, Defences of Newberne, North Carolina, Department of Virginia and North Carolina	April 1864 - Jan. 1865
Garrison, Roanoke Island, North Carolina, Department of North Carolina	Jan. 1865 - June 1865

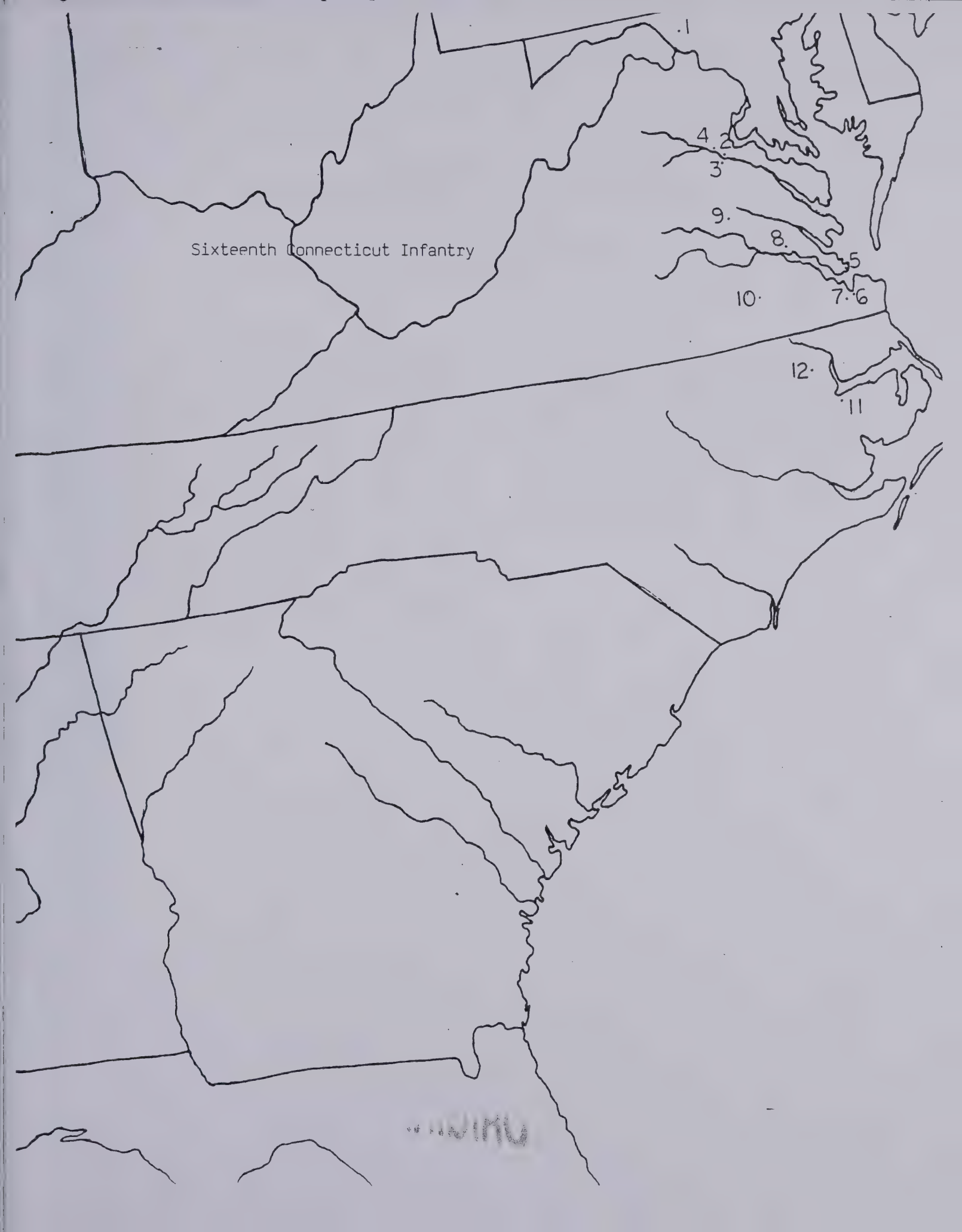
The Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry participated in more than fifteen engagements during its career. When Plymouth, North Carolina, fell to Confederater forces in mid-April, 1864, almost all of the members of the unit were captured. The list below shows the specific engagements in which the unit took part. Numbers after the events locate them on the map following this history.

Maryland Campaign	Sept. 6 - 22, 1862
Battle, Antietam, Sharpsburg, Md. (1)	Sept. 16 - 17, 1862
Movement to Falmouth, Va. (2)	Oct. 27 - Nov. 17, 1862
Battle, Fredericksburg, Va. (3)	Dec. 12 - 15, 1862
Burnside's "Mud March", Va. (4)	Jan. 20 - 24, 1863
Movement to Newport News, Va. (5)	Feb. 6 - 9, 1863
Siege of Suffolk, Va. (6)	April 12 - May 4, 1863
Action, Edenton Road, Va. (7)	April 24, 1863
Action, Providence Church and Nansemond River, Va.	May 3, 1863
Siege of Suffolk, Va. raised (6)	May 4, 1863
Dix's Peninsula Campaign, Va.	June 24 - July 7, 1863
Expedition from White House (8) to the South Anna River (9), Va.	July 1 - 7, 1864
Skirmish, Harrellsville, Va. (10) [detachment]	Jan. 20, 1864

Movement to Plymouth, N. C. (11)	Jan. 24 - 28, 1864
Skirmish, Windsor, N. C. (12)	Jan. 30, 1864
Siege, Plymouth, N. C. (11)	April 17 - 20, 1864
Surrender, Plymouth, N. C. (11)	April 20, 1865

The few remaining members of the regiment not captured at Plymouth were put on garrison service, first at newberne, and, finally, on Roanoke Island. The regiment was mustered out of Federal service on Roanoke Island on June 24, 1865.

During its career the Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry sustained the loss of six officers and seventy-six enlisted men killed or mortally wounded. An additional three officers and two hundred and forty enlisted men died from disease or other non-battlefield causes.


Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry
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12

Summary of Service
extracted from
A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion
by Frederick H Dyer.
reprinted, 1959
Thomas Yoseloff, New York
Page 1013
State of Connecticut

16th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Hartford August 24, 1862. Moved to Washington, D. C., August 29-31. Attached to 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 9th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to April, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 7th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia, to July, 1863. 2nd Brigade, Getty's Division, Portsmouth, Va., Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to January, 1864. District of Albemarle, N. C., Dept. Virginia and North Carolina, to April, 1864. Defences of Newberne, N. C., Dept. Virginia and North Carolina, to January, 1865. Roanoke Island, N. C., Dept. North Carolina, to June, 1865.

SERVICE.—Maryland Campaign September-October, 1862. Battle of Antietam, Md., September 16-17. Duty in Pleasant Valley, Md., till October 27. Movement to Falmouth, Va., October 27-November 17. Battle of Fredericksburg December 12-15. Burnside's 2nd Campaign, "Mud March," January 20-24, 1863. Moved to Newport News February 6-9, thence to Suffolk March 13. Siege of Suffolk April 12-May 4. Edenton Road April 24. Providence Church Road and Nansemond River May 3. Siege of Suffolk raised May 4. Reconnoissance to the Chickahominy June 9-17. Dix's Peninsula Campaign June 24-July 7. Expedition from White House to South Anna River July 1-7. Moved to Portsmouth, Va. Duty there and at Norfolk till January, 1864. Skirmish at Harrellsville January 20 (Detachment). Moved to Morehead City, thence to Newberne and Plymouth January 24-28. Skirmish at Windsor January 30. Duty at Newberne February 2 to March 20, and at Plymouth, N. C., till April. Siege of Plymouth April 17-20. Captured April 20, and prisoners of war till March, 1865. Those not captured on duty at Newberne and Roanoke Island, N. C., till June, 1865. Mustered out June 24, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 6 Officers and 76 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 240 Enlisted men by disease. Total 325.

Connecticut

Extracted from

Military Bibliography of the Civil War

by Charles Dornbusch

16th Infantry

Vol I

Vol IV

16TH INFANTRY

Mustered in: August 24, 1862.
Mustered out: June 24, 1865.
Record 617–39. History, by B. F. Blakeslee.

Roster of the survivors of the 16th Connecticut volunteers, September 1, 1909. [12] p. 1 illus., 2 ports. 19½cm. Ct *65*

Title from cover.

Sixteenth regiment Connecticut volunteers excursion and reunion at Antietam battlefield, September 17, 1889. Hartford, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1889. 32 p. 1 illus., map. 15½cm. Ct *66*

"The Sixteenth at Antietam," by Lieutenant B. F. Blakeslee, 13–23.

16th regiment Conn. volunteers report of the twenty-third annual reunion at Antietam battlefield, September 17, 1889. Hartford, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1890. 35 p. 23cm. Ct *67*

Blakeslee, Bernard F

History of the Sixteenth Connecticut volunteers, by B. F. Blakeslee, late 2d Lieut. Co. G. Hartford, Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1875. 116 p. 19cm. DLC NHi NN *68*

Coulter 39.

Burkhardt, A W

Forty hours on the battlefield of Antietam; or, the foeman friend, by A. W. Burkhardt. [n. p., n. d.] [10] leaves. 8½ × 12½cm. NN *69*

On cover: From the same canteen. The Northern soldier is Bela L. Burr of the 16th Conn.

Gilbert, William H

Sermon delivered in Granby, Conn., Jan. 4, 1863, at the funeral of Roswell Morgan Allen, Private in Co. E, 16th reg't C.V., who died at the hospital near Washington, Sunday, Dec. 28, 1863, by Rev. W. H. Gilbert. Hartford, Printed by Charles Montague, 1863. 23 p. 22cm. Ct CtY *69A*

Kellogg, Robert H

Life and death in Rebel prisons, giving a complete history of the inhuman and barbarous treatment of our brave soldiers by Rebel authorities, inflicting terrible suffering and frightful mortality, principally at Andersonville, Ga., and Florence, S.C., describing plans of escape, arrival of prisoners, with numerous and varied incidents and anecdotes of prison life, by Robert H. Kellogg, Sergeant-major 16th regiment Connecticut volunteers. Prepared from his daily journal, to which is added as full sketches of other prisons as can be given without repetition of the above, by the parties who have been confined therein. . . . Hartford, L. Stebbins, 1865. viii, [11]–400 p. plans, plates (illus.). 19cm. DLC NHi NN *70*

"Agents wanted" for this book, p 399. Advertisement, p 400. Coulter 272.

—— —— Hartford, L. Stebbins, 1866. viii, [11]–423 p. plans, plates (illus.). 19cm. NN *71*

Printed from the plates of Title 70 with the addition of 399–423, Appendix. Trial and execution of Wirz. Another printing, 1867.

Mayer, Nathan

A poem read by Surgeon Nathan Mayer, October 11, 1894, at the dedication of a monument by the Sixteenth Connecticut where they fought at Antietam, September 17, 1862. Hartford, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1894. 14 folios. illus., ports. 21½cm. DLC NHi *72*

"Published by the Executive committee of the Sixteenth Connecticut association."

O'Brien, Frank P

The story of a flag and the strange bringing together of its captors and defenders, as related by one of the former. *BandG* II (1893) 143–5. *73*

Author was a member of a Confederate artillery company.

See also Title 37.

16th Infantry

Helmreich, Charles G.

The diary of Charles G. Lee in the Andersonville and Florence prison camps, 1864. *Connecticut historical society bulletin* XLI (1976) 12-28. *414*

Excerpts from Lee's diary are included.

Ide, A. W., 1826-

A sermon preached Oct. 8, 1862, at Stafford Springs, at the funeral of Lieut. William Horton, of Co. I, 16th Conn. regt. volunteers, who was killed at the battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862, by Rev. A. W. Ide. Holliston, Massachusetts, E. G. Plimpton, printer, 1862. 21 p. 23½cm. CSmH *415*

Townsend, P.

A sermon preached October 26, at Stafford Springs, at the funeral of James W. Brooks, of Co. I, 16th regiment Connecticut volunteers, who died October 11th, from wounds received at the battle of Antietam, September 17th, 1862, by Rev. P. Townsend. Palmer, Massachusetts, G. M. Fisk & co., printers, 1862. 18 p. 22cm. CSmH *416*

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Volume I (Reprinted 1971 as one clothbound volume; Second Reprinting 1975)

Originally published 1961–62 in paperbound parts as: Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives of the Civil War: Northern States

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2. New York
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7. Index of Names

Volume II (Reprinted 1975, clothbound)

Originally published 1967, paperbound

Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives: Southern, Border, and Western States and Territories; Federal Troops

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Volume III (1972, clothbound)

General References

Armed Forces

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7. Index of Names

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Thorpe, Sheldon Brainerd, 1838–1914.

The history of the Fifteenth Connecticut volunteers in the War for the defense of the Union, 1861–1865, by Sheldon B. Thorpe, Sergeant Company K. New Haven, Price, Lee & Adkins co., 1893. iv, [5]–362 p. plates (illus., plan, ports.). 24cm. DLC NHi NN *64*

Unit roster [265]–330.

16TH INFANTRY

Mustered in: August 24, 1862.

Mustered out: June 24, 1865.

Record 617–39. History, by B. F. Blakeslee.

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Author was a member of a Confederate artillery company.

See also Title 37.

17TH INFANTRY

Mustered in: August 28, 1862.

Mustered out: July 19, 1865.

Record 640–64. History, by William H. Noble.

Seventeenth annual reunion of the 17th regiment C.V.I., held at Fairfield, Conn., August 28th, 1883. Bridgeport, Standard Association, printers, 1884. 37 p. 22½cm. Ct NN *74*

17th Connecticut volunteers at Gettysburg, June 30th, and July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1884. Bridgeport, Standard Association, printers, 1884. 46, (1) p. illus., plate (illus.). 22½cm. DLC NHi NN *75*

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Connecticut. Adjutant-General.
Record of service of Connecticut men in the Army and Navy of the United States, during the War of the rebellion. Compiled by authority of the General assembly, under direction of the Adjutant-general. . . . Hartford, Press of Case, Lockwood & Brainard co., 1889. xiii, 1071 p. 30cm.

Cited herein as *Record*.

Dyer, Frederick Henry, 1849–1917.
A compendium of the War of the rebellion. 1908 (reprinted 1959).

"Regimental index" 114–116; "Regimental histories" 1006–16. The pagination is the same in the 1959 reprint.

The Union army.
"Record of Connecticut regiments," I (1908) 274–310.

United States. Adjutant General's Office.
Official army register of the volunteer force of the United States army for the years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65. Part I. (New England states). Washington, 1865.

A roster of officers by regiments with an alphabetical index for the six states.

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Compiled by C. E. DORNBUSCH

Volume Four

Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives

Union and Confederate Biographies

Morningside

1987

(Update of the first three volumes printed in the 1960's)

16th Infantry

Helmreich, Charles G.
The diary of Charles G. Lee in the Andersonville and Florence prison camps, 1864. *Connecticut historical society bulletin* XLI (1976) 12-28. *414*
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17th Infantry

Bailey, James Montgomery, 1841-1894.
James M. Bailey's Civil war humor, by Hamlin Hill. *Connecticut historical society bulletin* XXVII (1962) 22-7. *417*
Based on the author's letters to the Danbury Times. Bailey contributed over a hundred letters to the Times, most of them in three series. One series was Life in the Seventeenth, sixty-one numbered letters, published January 1, 1863, to September 22, 1864.

19th Infantry

Bissell, Lewis, 1842-1935.
The Civil war letters of Lewis Bissell, a curriculum, by Mark Olcott with David Lear. Washington, D.C., The Field School Educational Foundation Press, 1981. 412 p. front. (port.), illus., ports. 28cm. *418*

25th Infantry

The Twenty-fifth regiment, Connecticut Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion, History, reminiscences, description battle of Irish Bend, carrying of pay roll, roster. Rockville, Press of Rockville Journal, June, 1913. 81 p. 6 plates (ports.). 23cm. NcD *419*
Contents: Brief history of the Twenty-fifth regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, from the pen of Colonel George P. Bissell; Experiences and reminiscences of Samuel K. Ellis of Rockville, who went out as a Private in Company G, Twenty-fifth regiment; A complete account of the battle of Irish Bend, given by Major Thomas McManus; How the pay of the regiment was carried to New Orleans, by First Lieutenant Henry Hill Goodell.

OFFICIAL ARMY REGISTER

OF THE

VOLUNTEER FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR

THE YEARS 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65.

PART I.

(NEW ENGLAND STATES.)

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APPROVED MARCH 2, 1865.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, August 31, 1865.

SIXTEENTH REGIMENT.

(This regiment was organized at Hartford, Conn.. August 24, 1862, to serve three years, and mustered out of service June 24, 1865, in accordance with orders from the War Department.)

(The official list of battles in which this regiment bore an honorable part, is not yet published in orders.)

Colonel.

F. Beach, U. S., B. A..24 Aug., 62

Lieutenant Colonel.

John H. Burnham.....26 Dec., 62

Major.

Henry L. Pasco.....29 June, 63

Captains.

Charles W. Morse.....18 Dec., 62
Thomas F. Burke..... 1 Jan., 63
Henry Hintez.....26 Jan.,
Timothy B. Robinson ... 1 April,
Joseph H. Barnum.....12 May,

First Lieutenants.

George A. Bowers ..... 4 Feb., 63
*William G. Miller ..... 9 May,
Charles J. Arms..... 7 July,
Gurden Robins, jr.....27 Apr., 65
Herbert Landon .....15 June,

Second Lieutenants.

Ariel J. Case..... 1 July, 63
Harmy Bruns ..... 1 July,
*George Johnson..... 7 Aug.,
Bernard F. Blackslee.... 7 Dec.,
Thomas R. Worsley.....19 Dec.,

Surgeon.

Nathan Mayer ..... 9 Jan., 63

CASUALTIES.

Resigned, (23.)

Captain Charles Babcock, December 18, 1862.
Captain Edward E. Rankin, January 24, 1863.
Captain William H. Lockwood, February 4, 1863.
Captain Henry L. Beach, May 18, 1863.
Captain Heber W. Seaver, in December, 1863.
Captain Mark C. Turner, May 22, 1865.
First Lieut. Richard Greene, September 30, 1862.
First Lieut. *John M. James,* October 30, 1862.
First Lieut. Henry A. Gay, November 1, 1862.
First Lieut. *Henry O. Goodell,* November 28, 1862.
First Lieut. George S. Gouge, December 24, 1862.
First Lieut. Henry Johnson, February 14, 1863.
Second Lieut. John M. Fisk, October 2, 1862.
Second Lieut. George W. Cook, October 2, 1862.
Second Lieut. Henry T. White, October 22, 1862.
Second Lieut. *George H. Fuller,* December 9, 1862.
Second Lieut. James C. Emmons, December 28, 1862.
Second Lieut. Charles H. Hawley, January 25, 1863.
Second Lieut. Charles H. Saunders, May 26, 1863.
Second Lieut. Henry Bristol, May 26, 1863.
Second Lieut. Joseph K. Barlow, November 1, 1863.
Surgeon Abner S. Warner, January 9, 1863.
Chaplain Peter V. Finch, January 25, 1863.

Discharged, (13.)

Lieut. Colonel Frank W. Cheney, December 24, 1862.
Major George A. Washburne, January 17, 1863.
Captain Nathaniel Hayden, January 17, 1863.
Captain Joseph H. Barnum, February 13, 1863. (Recommissioned May 12, 1863.)
Captain Julian Pomeroy, March 10, 1865.
First Lieut. Samuel D. Chamberlain, May 17, 1863.
First Lieut. Gurden Robins, jr., *R. Q. M.,* March 29, 1865. (Recommissioned April 27, 1865.)
First Lieut. John B. Clapp, *Adj't,* May 15, 1865.
First Lieut. Alonzo G. Case, May 15, 1865.
First Lieut. Edgar E. Strong, May 15, 1865.
First Lieut. Wallace R. Andrews, May 15, 1865.
First Lieut. Alfred A. Dickerson, May 25, 1865.
Second Lieut. John M. Waters, October 13, 1862. (Recommissioned May 21, 1863.

Promoted, (2.)

Assistant Surgeon E. M. Pease, December 3, 1863, to Surgeon Ninth U. S. *C. T.*
Assistant Surgeon Nehemiah Nickerson, January 2, 1865, to Surgeon Twenty-first Connecticut vols.

Dismissed, (2.)

Captain William H. Cone, April 25, 1864.
Second Lieut. John Williams, October 13, 1862.

Died, (9.)

Captain John L. Drake, killed in action at Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862.
Captain Newton S. Manross, September 17, 1862.
Captain Samuel Brown, killed in action at Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862.
Captain Frederick M. Barber, September 20, 1862, of wounds received in action.

* Prisoner of war at date of muster out of regiment.

Assistant Surgeon.	Captain Charles A. Tennant, May 24, 1863, of wounds received in action.
	Captain Edward H. Mix, drowned in Albemarle Sound, March 8, 1864.
Chaplain.	First Lieut. William Horton, killed in action at Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862.
Charles Dixon .....10 June, 63	First Lieut. Samuel H. Thompson, October 21, 1862, of disease.
	First Lieut. John M. Waters, August 18, 1864, while prisoner of war at Savannah, Ga.

NOTE.—The roster of officers is given as it stood on the day of muster out.

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LIST OF SOLDIERS BY REGIMENT AND COMPANY

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Name		Grave	Co	Reg	State	Arm
WHITE	JOHN J.	1124	A	16	CT	INFANTRY
CASE	ORVILLE J.	1118	A	16	CT	INFANTRY
FOSTER	PHILIP H.	1101	B	16	CT	INFANTRY
GROSVENOR	JOSEPH A.	1093	B	16	CT	INFANTRY
HAMILTON	HANCEY	1092	B	16	CT	INFANTRY
HUNN	HORACE	1113	B	16	CT	INFANTRY
LOVELAND	JOHN	1099	C	16	CT	INFANTRY
WARDWELL	EMERSON	1136	D	16	CT	INFANTRY
BOUT	DANIEL	1140	D	16	CT	INFANTRY
MORGAN	ROBERT P.	1102	E	16	CT	INFANTRY
McGRATH	JAMES	1080	E	16	CT	INFANTRY
COWAN	WILLIAM	1105	E	16	CT	INFANTRY
WILSON	ORVIL M.	1108	G	16	CT	INFANTRY
BURR	FRANCIS W.	1116	G	16	CT	INFANTRY
KENT	JOHN S.	1087	G	16	CT	INFANTRY
SMITH	MICHAEL	1086	G	16	CT	INFANTRY
GLADDING	TIMOTHY	1088	G	16	CT	INFANTRY
HOLLISTER	BRIDGMEN J.	1104	H	16	CT	INFANTRY
WILSEY	JULIUS	1089	H	16	CT	INFANTRY
EVANS	HENRY D.	1084	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
HIMES	JAMES	1091	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
TWISS	JASON E.	1083	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
HIMES	STEPHEN	1081	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
GREEGIN	JAMES	1082	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
LAY	HORACE	1100	I	16	CT	INFANTRY
ALDRICH	HENRY	1085	K	16	CT	INFANTRY
	UNKNOWN	1096		16	CT	INFANTRY

1118 Of Case
Conn

Sect 16 Antietan
Cemetery

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE — ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

P. O. BOX 158 — 02/15/95 — SHARPSBURG, MD 21782

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Of Case
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Sect 16 Antiletan
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P. O. BOX 158 — 02/15/95 — SHARPSBURG, MD 21782

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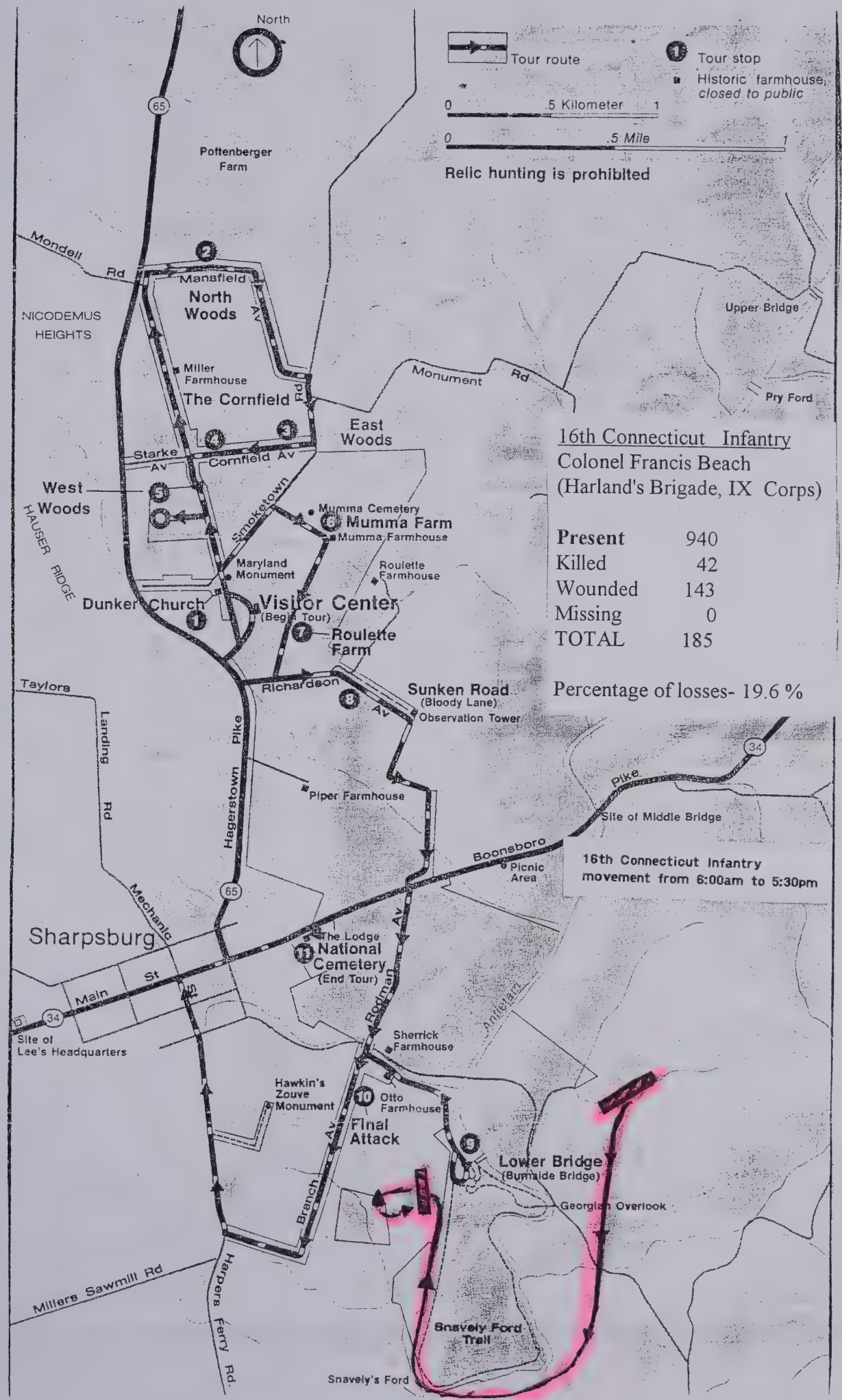

16th Connecticut Infantry
Colonel Francis Beach
(Harland's Brigade, IX Corps)

Present	940
Killed	42
Wounded	143
Missing	0
TOTAL	185

Percentage of losses- 19.6 %

Porterstown
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
SYKES' DIVISION
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
VAN RECD
WARREN
BURNSIDE'S (9th) CORPS
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BURNSIDE
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., A. P. Hill's division was at
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Pleasant Valley and Harper's


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SYKES' DIVISION
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
VAN REED
MILLER
GRAHAM
SUMNER'S (2d) CORPS
RICHARDSON'S DIVISION
HAZLETT
LOVELL
STARR'S DIVISION
EAGLE
WARREN
TWIGGS
CROOK
CLARK
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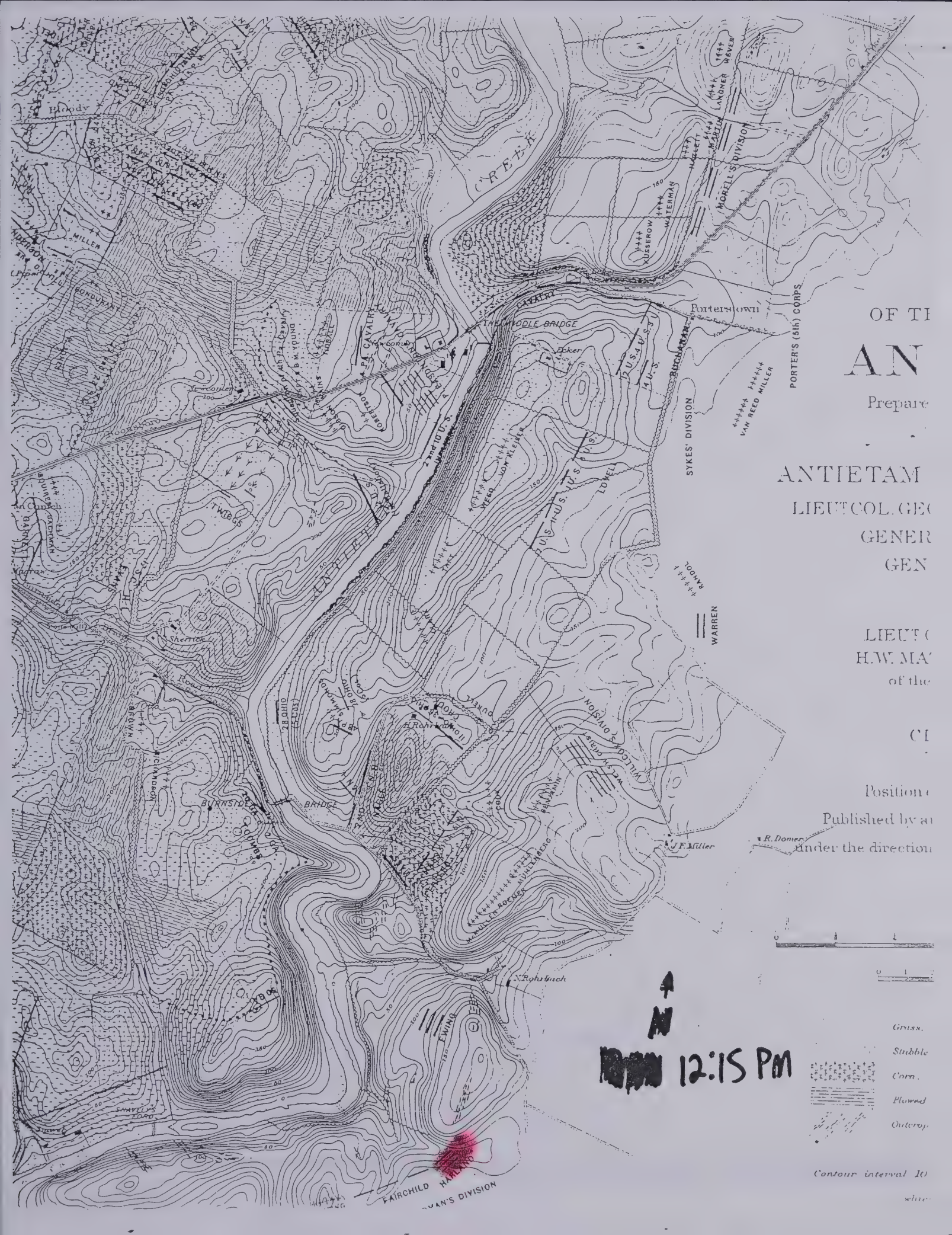
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THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
BURNSIDE'S BRIDGE
SYKES' DIVISION
PORTER'S (5th) CORPS
MORELL'S DIVISION
SEDGWICK'S DIVISION
WILCOX'S DIVISION
WARREN
FAIRCHILD
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Grass.
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Outcrop
Contour interval 10
12:15 PM

had lost all or-
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ARPSBURG
LAKE
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R. H. ANDERSON
U.T. ANDERSON
H. Piper
J.D. Piper
C. Michael
EVANS
BROOKS
GARNETT
BROWN
DRAYTON KEMPER
WOODS
BACHMAN
RILEY
MILLER
RICHARDSON
APHILL'S DIVISION
ARCHER
RENDER
FIELD
EAGLEMAN
BRAXTON
PEGRAM
MUNFORD
Blackford
Harper
Bloody
Lane
COLONEL
COLONEL'S BRANCH
COLONEL'S CREEK
THE MIDDLE BRIDGE
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Blue and Gray Mag
Blue & Gray Enterprises, Inc
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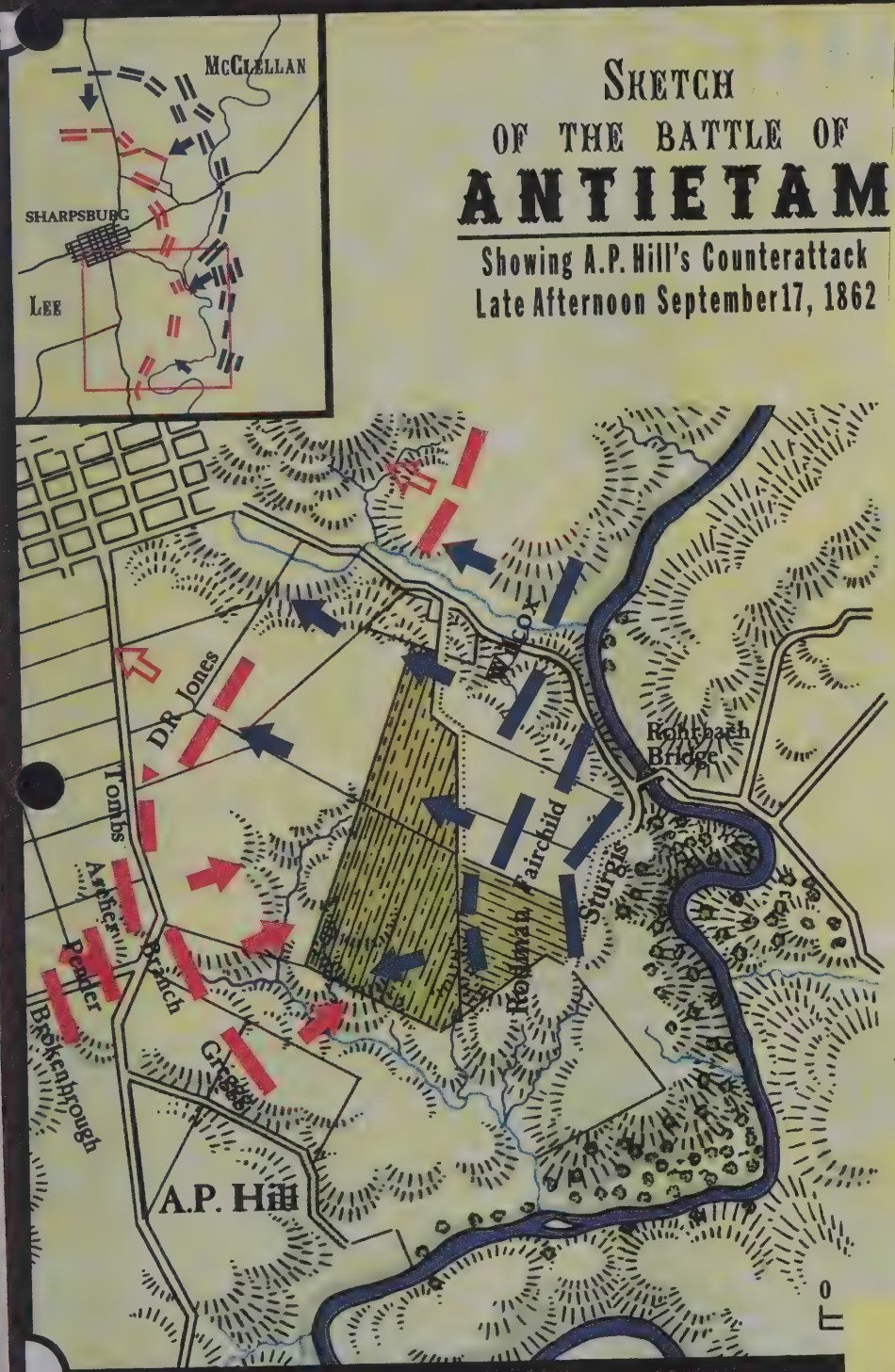

into a surprised rabble — has captured the popular imagination at the expense of other Southerners who helped save the the Confederate right. Before the "Light Division" thumped the Unionists, David Rumph Jones and his skeleton division absorbed the fire of Ambrose E. Bunside's offensive. By the time Hill's troops arrived on the field, the embers of the Union attack had cooled. Jones's men had battled Burnside's soldiers for nine rounds. In the tenth, Hill entered the ring to deliver the knockout blow. An unpublished letter from Confederate artillerist Thomas Henry Carter, never before quoted, combined with other first-hand accounts, suggests that Hill's heroics could not have been accomplished without D. R.

Ambrose Powell Hill's "Light Division" had completed an impressive march from Harper's Ferry, covering 17 miles in less than eight hours. Along the way, the fiery Hill is said to have used his saber to encourage stragglers. W soldiers reached the field, no m 3,000 of the 5,000 men who h the march remained in the rank and disorganized, they nonethe

See pg 59
Final Hour of Battle
Conn 8th
Conn 16th
A P Hill
Georgians checked the enemy

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See pg 59 Final Hour of Battle

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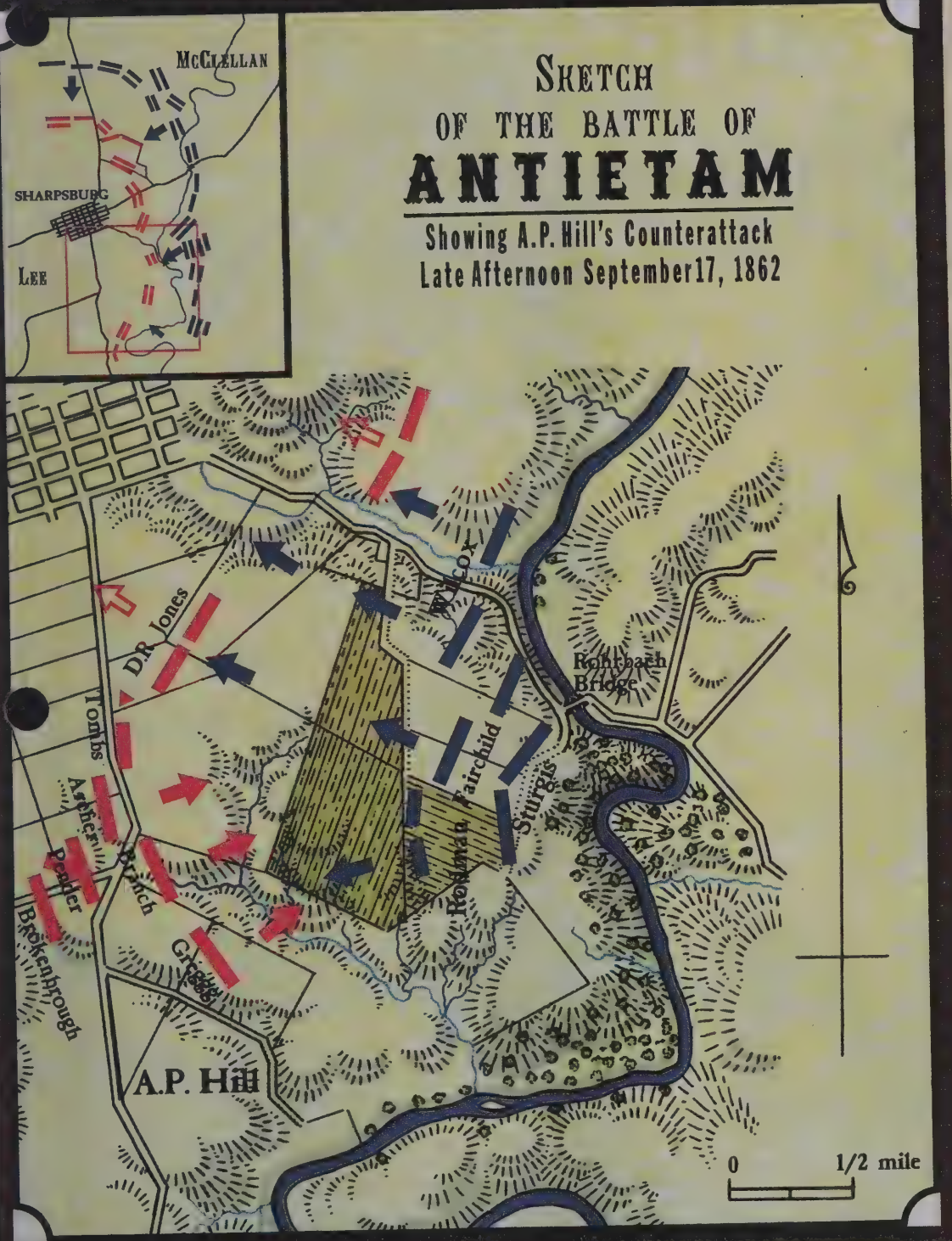


Ambrose Powell Hill's "Light Division" had completed an impressive march from Harper's Ferry, covering 17 miles in less than eight hours. Along the way, the fiery Hill is said to have used his saber to encourage stragglers. When his soldiers reached the field, no more than 3,000 of the 5,000 men who had begun the march remained in the ranks. Weary and disorganized, they nonetheless pitched into the exposed left flank of the Northerners. The suddenness and fury of Hill's counterattack drove the Federals back to Antietam Creek. Hill's reinforcements probably saved Lee's army from destruction.

The image of a coatless Powell Hill, in his bright red battle shirt, leading his men into a surprised Yankee flank has captured the popular imagination at the expense of other Southerners who helped save the the Confederate right. Before the "Light Division" thumped the Unionists, David Rumph Jones and his skeleton division absorbed the fire of Ambrose E. Bunside's offensive. By the time Hill's troops arrived on the field, the embers of the Union attack had cooled. Jones's men had battled Burnside's soldiers for nine rounds. In the tenth, Hill entered the ring to deliver the knockout blow. An unpublished letter from Confederate artillerist Thomas Henry Carter, never before quoted, combined with other first-hand accounts, suggests that Hill's heroics could not have been accomplished without D. R. Jones's initial defense.

Long before Hill's men arrived from Harper's Ferry, a feeling of desperation gripped the Confederate defenders on Lee's right flank. Only Jones's division stood in the way of Burnside's offensive. James Longstreet handed the South Carolinian a nearly impossible task. All the ground south of Sharpsburg, includ-

ing the town and the critical Boteler's Ford road, came under his defense. Jones, a West Point graduate and veteran of the Mexican War, was no stranger to special assignments. During the bombardment of Fort Sumter, he was ordered to the Union garrison to accept Major Robert Anderson's surrender. Rumors persist that he also lowered the "Stars and Stripes." Competent service during the Peninsula and Second Manassas Campaigns confirmed his standing in the army as a dependable officer. Few expected daring brilliance from Jones. In his last battle with the Army of Northern Virginia, however, he must have shocked his superiors with his magnificent defense of Sharpsburg. Unfortunately, he did not get an opportunity to bask in the glow of his impressive accomplishment. Shortly after the battle, Jones suffered a heart disorder that forced him to return to Richmond where he died on January 15, 1863.

Jones's adversary at Antietam, Ambrose E. Burnside, had spent a frustrating morning trying to capture the Rohrbach Bridge. After repeated efforts he eventually secured the crossing, but precious hours passed before the Federals continued the move to Sharpsburg. Not until 3 p.m. did more than 5,000 fresh troops from the lead divisions of Isaac P. Rodman and Orlando B. Wilcox push forward. Another 3,000 men of Samuel D. Sturgis's Kanawha Division followed in close support. The Union battle line presented a formidable sight, rolling across the undulating cornfields and meadows like some irrepressible blue wave. From McClellan's headquarters at the Pry house, the Union high command enjoyed a panoramic view of the unfolding assault. One staff officer considered Burnside's attack a "grand effort.... His advancing rush was in full view and magnificently done."

Burnside aimed Wilcox's division due west toward Sharpsburg while Rodman's division was to maintain contact on the left. Once astride the Harper's Ferry Road, Rodman would strike the town from the south and effectively cut Lee off from Boteler's Ford. While his two divisions enveloped Jones's position, Burnside expected McClellan to support his right flank. With Fitz John Porter's Fifth Corps ensconced around his headquarters near the Middle Bridge, "Little Mac" had plenty of reserves to send down the Boonsboro Turnpike. A coordinated movement between Porter and Burnside ought to have cracked the spine of Lee's thin defense around Sharpsburg. McClellan's curious detachment from the battle squandered yet another grand opportunity. Like previous Union offensives that day, Burnside attacked in isolation. He knew little of the terrain in his front or what lingered beyond his own flanks, circumstances eerily similar to Edwin Sumner's morning advance into the West Woods, a blind movement that resulted in disaster for the Union Second Corps.

Although Burnside received little assistance from army headquarters, he enjoyed a decisive numerical advantage, probably outnumbering his opponent some four to one. In the ranks of Jones's division stood fewer than 2,800 men. On the eastern side of town, he posted the brigades of Richard B. Garnett and Micah Jenkins (commanded that day by Joseph Walker) to cover Sharpsburg and the Boonsboro turnpike. To the right were the brigades of Thomas F. Drayton, James L. Kemper, and Robert Toombs. For most of the day Toombs's brigade had contested Burnside's crossing of Antietam Creek, a demanding assignment that had exhausted the men. Fortunately for the Georgian politician, two of his reserve regiments arrived on the field just as Burnside began his final assault. Some 28 guns formed the cornerstone of Jones's defense. Most of these cannon occupied a semicircular ridge around Cemetery Hill (where the National Cemetery is located today). Lee did not seem alarmed by Jones's threadbare line, nor by the absence of immediate reserves. He promised additional artillery support, but the commanding general did not try to shift infantry reinforcements from his left.

Jones did not passively receive the Federal onslaught but shook out a strong picket line to greet Burnside's men. Some South Carolinians and Georgians under Colonel F. W. McMaster hid behind the stone walls, wood fences, outbuildings, and orchard of the Joseph Sherrick farm. When Wilcox's Federals came out of a hollow, McMaster's detachment suddenly appeared, unloading a well-directed volley into the thick, blue ranks. Confederate artillerists on the high ground quickly joined the fight. Together, they delivered a powerful converging fire that pinned down an entire Federal brigade at the Sherrick Farm. One Union officer reported that "for 30 minutes we were under a most severe fire of round shot, shell, grape, and canister." "It was impossible to move forward," he

complained. The only alternative, he concluded, was "to wait patiently until some demonstration on the left would compel" the Southerners to change targets. Another Federal officer, Jacob Cox, considered Jones's artillery fire "the most trying and destructive cross fire of artillery." Such effectiveness resulted, in part, from Confederate ingenuity. One Southern artillerist protected his battery "by placing the guns just behind the crest so that they would fire over." "In this way," he added, "the balls of the enemy strike the crest in front ricochet & pass over."

Just as Stephen D. Lee's guns had anchored the Confederate left flank near the Dunker Church earlier in the day, Jones's batteries performed a similar role on the right. Unlike S. D. Lee's cannoneers, however, the defense by Jones's gunners has gone relatively unnoticed by contemporaries and subsequent historians. In the classic history of the Army of Northern Virginia's artillery, *The Long Arm of Lee*, Jennings Cropper Wise believes that "Sharpsburg was a day of glory for the Confederate Artillery." Southern cannoneers on Lee's right, however, receive scant attention from Wise. In a previously unpublished letter, artillerist Thomas Hill Carter thought Jones's batteries prevented the Federals from marching straight into Sharpsburg. "The center gave way & but for four or five batteries there would have been a rout & with no infantry we held for hours a half a mile of ground." In the face of repeated Union assaults, Carter boasted that "we showered the iron hail upon them & forced them back." Significantly, Carter pointed out that few inside the army gave the artillery sufficient credit for saving Lee's flank. He bitterly acknowledged that "we get but little credit for what we do."

While the artillerists continued to pound Wilcox's division, the resolve of Jones's infantrymen dissolved with alarming rapidity. When Wilcox pushed additional brigades toward Cemetery Hill, portions of Kemper's and Drayton's brigades stampeded to the rear. The Yankees fired several shots at Lee as he tried to rally his demoralized men. Thomas Henry Carter provides a remarkable description of Lee under fire at Sharpsburg, quite possibly the only wartime account in existence of this incident. "Gen. Lee exposed himself entirely too much." Carter wrote on October 2, 1862. "He got down & endeavored to rally some of D. R. Jones' men but in vain. They ran like hounds." Carter could not recall another battle when Lee looked "so anxious as he was at Sharpsburg."

Small groups of Northern soldiers

surged over Cemetery Hill and reached the outskirts of Sharpsburg. Confederate stragglers, wagons, and wounded clogged the streets, desperate to escape. While Wilcox's division confronted the Confederate cannon protecting Sharpsburg, Isaac Rodman's two brigades located the Rebels to the south. Again Confederate gunners punished the Federal attackers. "In a second the air was full of the hiss of bullets and the hurtle of grape-shot," wrote a Union soldier. "The mental strain was so great that I saw . . . the whole landscape for an instant turned slightly red." After the Southern batteries retired, some 590 Virginians, South Carolinians, and Georgians appeared from behind a stone wall. Their fire ripped into Colonel Harrison S. Fairchild's New York brigade. The unit staggered, but some 700 New Yorkers made a final charge that engulfed both lines of battle in a bloody melee. The few Confederates who escaped ran for the safety of Sharpsburg. Fairchild's assault had shattered Lee's flank. Only Jones's artillery near Sharpsburg provided any semblance of organized resistance.

While Lee desperately tried to patch a line of infantry together, the lead elements of Hill's division arrived with David Gregg McIntosh's Pee Dee Artillery in the forefront. He unlimbered three cannon atop an impressive ridge in front of the Harper's Ferry Road. Two regiments of Toombs's brigade stood nearby. The South Carolinian cannoneers presented an alluring target for the Federal units milling below the ridge. Unable to resist, the 8th Connecticut rushed the Confederate battery. As the men neared their trophy, blasts of double canister seared gaping holes in the Union ranks, knocking down the regiment's flag at least three times, but the Federals pushed ahead. "Our fire was so rapid and so deadly that they staggered under it," McIntosh wrote after the war, "and by the time they had recovered sufficiently to move straight on us, my ammunition from the only two chests I had was exhausted and I drew off the men behind the fence just in our rear." With the guns abandoned, the Connecticut boys swarmed around the abandoned pieces. Before they could seize the critical Harper's Ferry Road, Toombs's Georgians raced forward at the double quick, halted, delivered a crushing volley, and recaptured McIntosh's guns. Although some of A. P. Hill's men participated in this counterattack, it was the decisive action of the Georgians that had checked the enemy long enough for the "Light Division" to reach the field in force.

The temporary capture of McIntosh's guns marked the high point of Burnside's offensive. After Toombs's charge, the sails of Union assault went flat. Unlike Jones's troops who confronted fresh attackers, Hill's men faced a weary, disorganized adversary. Confederate fire from Cemetery Hill had knocked the Union attack off its proposed axis of advance. As Wilcox's brigades moved toward Sharpsburg, they strayed too far to the right and lost contact with Rodman's division. A dangerous gap developed, throwing the entire Union advance out of equilibrium. Fortuitously, Hill struck when the Federal line was out of balance. Instead of exploiting the gap, however, he smashed Rodman's left flank. The rookie 16th Connecticut received the initial brunt of Hill's attack. A single volley from the flank and rear nearly destroyed the regiment. The dazed survivors ignored the pleas of their officers and scurried off. One soldier wrote that the field was covered with "piles of heads, arms, legs and fragments of other portions of humanity all thrown together promiscuously." He confided to his family that he did not consider running until he looked around and "saw only dead men." Another Connecticut soldier admitted that "there was some pretty tall running in the 16th."

The rout of the 16th Connecticut triggered the collapse of Rodman's command. His hasty retreat uncovered Wilcox's position and compelled him to abandon his advance position near Sharpsburg. Both divisions tumbled back to Antietam Creek under the fire of some forty Confederate guns, blasting into a bloated target of broken-down regiments and panicked men. As the sun was setting, A. P. Hill watched "the tide of the enemy" surge back, break into confusion, and then pass out of sight behind the ridges along Antietam Creek. He must have been exceedingly proud of his men. Their amazing forced march from Harper's Ferry and crushing flank attack probably staved off disaster.

Hill's Sharpsburg performance rightfully ranks as one of the finest attacks of the Army of Northern Virginia. Without the stalwart defense of D. R. Jones's division, however, Hill's exploits may never have occurred. Jones's soldiers blunted Burnside's initial advance, buying Lee valuable time so that Hill could reach the field. Although a few of Jones's brigades lacked resolve at crucial junctures of the battle, his artillery around Cemetery Hill never faltered. These batteries not only played havoc on Burnside's formations, but they also drew Wilcox away from Rodman's division. With the Federal line destabilized and the left flank dangling in the air, Hill's men devoured a well-cooked meal prepared by Jones's soldiers. During those final hours of fighting that determined the fate of the Army of Northern Virginia, D. R. Jones's soldiers had set the stage for A. P. Hill's grand entrance. Powell Hill's subsequent heroics cannot be understood or applauded without crediting the supporting cast of D. R. Jones's division. ■

"Dirty, ragged, and ill-provided for"

A hungry Southerner demonstrates why Confederates later called the September invasion of Maryland "The Green Corn Campaign."

Before Sharpsburg, Lee's Supply Officers Fought a Battle Every Day

BY KEITH BOHANNON

The men of the Army of Northern Virginia were in high spirits when they crossed the Potomac River into Maryland on September 5, 1862. Victories in the Seven Days Battles and Second Manassas Campaigns had given them confidence in themselves and in their generals. But all was not well within Robert E Lee's army. Confederate General John R. Jones claimed in an official report that the Army of Northern Virginia had never been "so dirty, ragged, and ill-provided for" as it was in the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Years later, the astute ex-artillerist Edward Porter Alexander wrote that "In the matter o shoes, clothing, and food" Robert E. Lee's army was "upon the whole, prob ably worse off" during the Antietam Campaign "than it had ever been befor or ever was again."

"This army," Lee wrote to President Jefferson Davis on September 3, "is not properly equipped for an invasion of the enemy's territory." The army lacked "much of the material of war, is feeble in transport tion, the animals being much reduced,...the men...poorly provided with clothes, and in thousands of instances...destitute of shoes." No general can long maintain his army as an effective fighting force without a regular infusion of tons of food, forage and supplies. Such an infusion Lee did not have, and he was especially concerned about food. In the winter of 1861-1862, the Confederacy had lost central Tennessee, the largest pork-produc ing region in the South. Furthermore, despite converting much cotton lan to fields for edible crop, the Confederacy realized little benefit because a severe drought in the summer of 1862 nullified any increase in food prod tion. "The supply of hogs is 100,000 less than it was last year," Confedera Secretary of War George W. Randolph wrote to Lee, "[and] the failure of t corn crop in Tennessee and Northwestern Georgia renders even this supp to some extent unavailable." Beef production was down, and the wheat c in Virginia was less than it had been. Randolph concluded his grim assess ment by stating that "the corn crop in the Southern States is unavailable b the difficulties of transportation."

Lee realized that in Maryland his men would be far from any major Southern supply depots or railroad routes. He proposed to Davis on

Map of Portions of Maryland and Virginia,

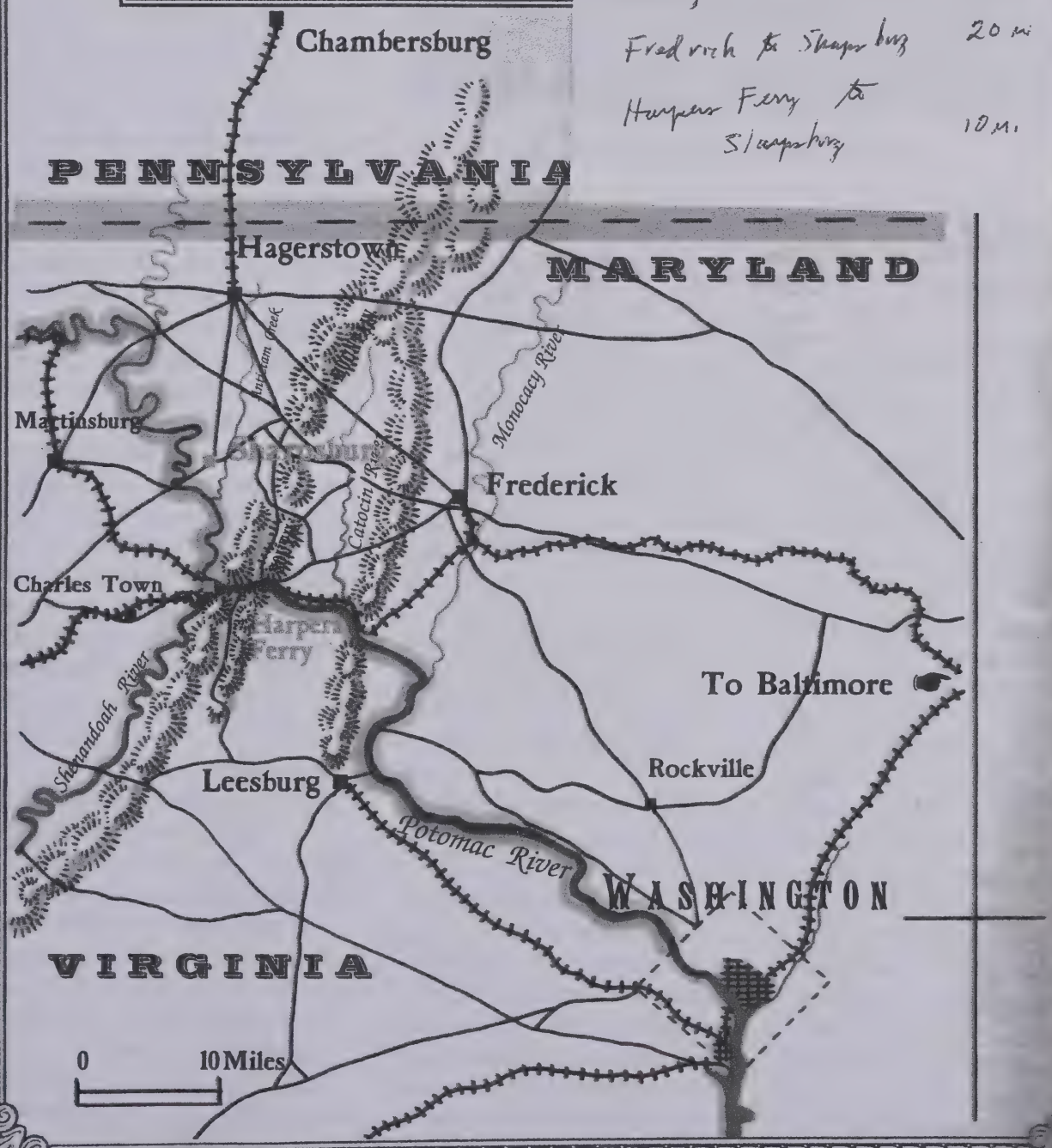
ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN

1862

Washington to Frederick Approx 40 mi

Frederick to Sharpsburg 20 mi

Harpers Ferry to Sharpsburg 10 mi.



September 5 that the army supply itself with provisions and forage taken from the countryside. Official reports, newspaper articles, and the diaries and letters of many soldiers reveal that during the Second Manassas Campaign the army had survived in part on a diet of green corn, or "roasting ears," and green apples.

Many Southern soldiers also suffered excessively from hard roads and exposure to the elements. Although the Confederate Quartermaster Department had clothing depots or bureaus in several major Southern cities, they were unable in the fall of 1862 to produce or obtain through contracts with private businesses enough uniforms and shoes to supply the field armies. When the Federals seized major depots and production centers in Nashville in February 1862 and in New Orleans two months later, they captured much of the quartermaster department's stock of surplus goods. In a January 1863 report of conditions within the Confederacy, Secretary of War James A. Seddon reported that "reliance has been placed to a considerable extent on foreign supplies, since [leather and wool] are not adequately furnished within the Confederate States." Seddon admitted that "under the losses and interruptions caused by the Federal blockade, there has been at times rather scant supplies of Blankets, Shoes, and some other articles of clothing."

Despite the many problems facing the Confederate quartermaster system, Quartermaster General Abraham C. Myers urged in mid-August 1862 the discontinuation of the commutation system whereby soldiers furnished their own clothing in exchange for a bi-annual fixed sum of money. Myers admitted that his department was not "prepared to fully cloth[e] the Army," but nonetheless argued that "the troops can be more effectually supplied through the [central government] depots than from any other source." Rampant inflation, Myers noted, had made the commutation payment of $25 per soldier for six months worth of clothing "totally inadequate...a pair of serviceable shoes costing one half of that sum." Soldiers buying clothing on the market competed with purchasers from the Confederate government, driving up the prices set by "traders and speculators." Myers lastly noted that the frequent and valuable donations of clothing made by private individuals and organizations earlier in the war had nearly ceased by the fall of 1862 due to the "difficulty of safe and prompt transportation, and for the more controlling reason, that nearly all such sources of supply have been made available by the Q.M. Department."

Road-weary Confederates strip down to cross the Potomac.

While Myers argued to end the commutation system, the Army of Northern Virginia engaged in a series of long marches resulting in a Confederate victory at Second Manassas. These movements took an enormous toll on shoe leather, leaving thousands of Southern soldiers either barefoot or with only the remnants of shoes. Plundering the dead offered some relief for the men. A lieutenant in the 8th Louisiana Infantry noticed that at Second Manassas every corpse he saw "had been stripped of his shoes...[they] being a very scarce article, there was a great demand for them."

A reduction in the number of regimental baggage wagons within Lee's army also contributed to the soldiers' woes. On August 6, 1862, Lee ordered three baggage wagons taken from every regiment in the army to provide additional vehicles for hauling subsistence. This order denied the soldiers access to large amounts of spare clothing and blankets and made it impossible for Stonewall Jackson's men to haul away valuable supplies captured at Manassas Junction. Another redistribution of wagons, enjoining infantry officers to haul only "cooking utensils and the absolute necessities of a regiment," occurred on September 4 just prior to the army's crossing the Potomac River into Maryland. The second reduction, like the first, helped free vehicles to carry flour to the army.

Reductions ordered in the personal baggage carried by individual soldiers exacerbated the problems caused by the absence of regimental wagons. Throughout the first several weeks of August, most officers in Lee's army received orders for their men to place knapsacks, tents, and extra blankets in

storage and proceed in light marching order. The baggage remained at various Virginia depots until late October or November 1862.

As Lee's men marched northward from Manassas, their commanding officer made preparations to secure his supply lines. When Confederates captured the town of Winchester on September 3, Lee designated the city an army depot. Two days later as the army crossed into Maryland, Lee sent Jefferson Davis a telegram describing the army's new supply route. From Culpeper Court House, wagons were to travel westward into the Shenandoah Valley, pass through Luray and Front Royal and proceed northward to Winchester. An alternate route directed wagons to Staunton and then down the Valley Road to Winchester.

Prior to the Confederate Army's passage of the Potomac, Lee issued a general order that he hoped would provide food and forage, clothing, shoes, medical stores and horses for his command. He instructed quartermaster and commissary officers to purchase supplies from civilians. If unable to pay for necessities, officers were to provide "certificates of indebtedness of the Confederate States for future adjustment." These measures, Lee hoped, would remove all excuses for depredations.

Numerous Confederates claimed that Lee's troops exercised restraint while marching through Maryland. J. F. J. Caldwell contended that the men "distinguished themselves by studiously refraining from injury to the persons or property of the people." Caldwell saw thousands of troops pass orchards "without touching a fruit." One journalist claimed that "not a pound of hay nor a piece of wood has been consumed without the owner's consent and full compensation."

Other Southerners left a different portrait of their army's behavior. Quartermaster John W. McLure told his wife that civilians "sometimes object to taking Confederate notes in payment for hay and other necessary supplies for our army, which necessitates us to adopt the rather stringent measures of taking the desired articles by force." An Alabama soldier admitted that Lee's army was "quite as destructive as the Yankees to fences & cornfields," but justified the actions by arguing that the Southerners "distroy[sic] from necessity."

With no signs of their commissary wagons, the men received orders to move into large fields of corn purchased by Confederate commissary officers. There the soldiers filled their haversacks with instructions to feed any remaining husks and stalks to the horses. Jedediah Hotchkiss, a member of Stonewall Jackson's staff, wrote that his commander "bought rails and ordered the men to have one day's rations of roasting ears cooked and in the haversacks by dawn" the next day.

As the soldiers again took up the march, Hotchkiss heard a passing soldier wonder aloud if General Jackson "has roasting ears in his haversack too?" The answer came when Stonewall halted for dinner and "took a large roasting ear out of his haversack and deliberately gnawed off the corn." "The whole army," wrote Hotchkiss, "stretched for miles along the road, followed suit."

The diet of green corn and apples, supplemented occasionally by flour and fresh beef, remained a constant for Lee's men throughout the Maryland Campaign. A private in the 14th Alabama estimated that "two-thirds of the subsistence our men got in Maryland, was roasting-ears." A company-grade officer wrote home that "many days we had to march without a meal in our haversacks, and when they did feed us it was with beef with no salt and bread the same." Some soldiers, especially officers, enjoyed a more varied diet due to the efforts of their personal servants. "The great horde of negro cooks and servants that usually followed the army were allowed to roam at will over the surrounding country," noted a South Carolinian.

A halt of several days at Frederick, Maryland, allowed Lee's men a much-needed rest. Stonewall Jackson's troops entered the town on September 6, hundreds of soldiers crowding into stores while others took meals in the homes of friendly civilians. The ragged hordes of Southerners received a mixed reception in Frederick; many merchants and civilians sold freely and accepted Confederate script, but others did not.

In hopes of organizing an official purchase of supplies, Lee closed the town on September 9 to all soldiers except those on army business. He claimed, however, that Confederate quartermasters obtained only a thousand pairs of shoes and some clothing in Frederick, hardly enough to meet the desperate needs of the troops.

The same day that Lee ordered Frederick off limits, he telegraphed

Jefferson Davis to describe the army's supply situation. "We are able to obtain forage and some provisions," Lee wrote, "but there is more difficulty about the latter." Many Maryland farmers had not gotten their wheat out of the fields, Lee explained, adding that there was "a reluctance on the part of millers and others to commit themselves in our favor." Some cattle, "but not great numbers," had been obtained in the countryside.

Lee concluded he must look to other, more familiar sources of supply. The Confederate commander knew that he could obtain ample supplies of flour and probably cattle from farmers in the Shenandoah Valley, yet the Union garrisons at Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry obstructed a Confederate supply line to the Valley. Lee decided to dislodge the two Federal garrisons "in order to open our communications through the Valley for the purpose of obtaining from Richmond the ammunition, clothing, etc., of which we were in great need."

Lee issued orders on September 9 dividing his army into several parts and giving Stonewall Jackson the task of capturing the Union garrisons of Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry. Jackson's men occupied Martinsburg on the morning of September 12, capturing "a lot of corn, commissary stores, and military supplies" according to a Virginia artillerist. The quantity of material seized there paled, however, with that taken at Harper's Ferry. The Federal surrender of Harper's Ferry left Jackson's command in possession of roughly 11,000 prisoners and an equal number of small arms, 73 cannon, 200 wagons and "a large amount of camp and garrison equipage." Out of the limited supply of foodstuffs captured in Harper's Ferry, Jackson's commissary officer issued full rations for two days to the prisoners and divided the rest among Jackson's men.

Despite the efforts of quartermasters and commissaries to account for all the property seized at Harper's Ferry, much of it never appeared on official inventories. Major John A. Harman complained that large amounts of captured property were not turned over to the quartermaster's department, "especially by the cavalry." In many cases, quartermasters of individual units failed to produce inventories of captured supplies they hauled off in new wagons they had exchanged for worn-out vehicles. Even high-ranking officers succumbed to the temptation of plundering; an artillerist noted that General A. P. Hill "appeared to have th

contents of an whole sutler's stores in one of his wagons, part of the 'loot' of Harper's Ferry."

Many of Jackson's foot cavalrymen ignored protocol when it came to the captured stores at Harper's Ferry. A Tennessean from Archer's Brigade remembered that his unit ostensibly guarded a large warehouse full of supplies, but that most of the men spent their time appropriating whatever suited their fancy. When the South Carolinians of Gregg's brigade fell in to receive rations consisting of "very fair bread" cooked on flat rocks, one of their commissary officers noted that the men "stood but little in need" of the ration, "having supplied themselves from captured stores."

Hill's men also took the opportunity at Harper's Ferry to cast off their ragged garments in exchange for Federal uniforms. Captain Andrew Wardlaw wrote that throughout the Federal camps "the whole ground...was pretty well covered in places with old clothes which our soldiers had thrown off, substituting new ones." So many men in General James J. Archer's brigade donned captured clothing that one member claimed that "but for the tattered Battle flags [they] might have been taken for a brand new Brigade from Boston."

As Jackson moved against the Union garrisons at Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry, Lee accompanied General James Longstreet's command and the division of General D. H. Hill across the South Mountain range. D. H. Hill's division remained at Boonsboro to support the Confederate cavalry east of South Mountain, while Longstreet's command marched westward to Hagerstown with the reserve, supply and baggage wagons of the army to secure supplies and guard against a reported Federal advance southward from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Although Longstreet's command received a warm welcome in Hagerstown, the supplies of foodstuffs and clothing obtained there failed to meet the needs of his ragged and hungry command. Lee informed Davis on September 12 that the army had found about 1,500 barrels of flour in the city and hoped to gather more from nearby mills. This was hardly enough, and Lee told the president that he feared "we shall have to haul [flour] from the Valley of Virginia." The army had obtained only a small amount of beef and no bacon. The 400 pairs of shoes found in Hagerstown combined with 250 pairs found in Williamsport and those obtained in Frederick were hardly sufficient to cover many thousands of bare feet.

On the evening of September 14, after a day of heavy fighting in the South Mountain passes, Lee decided to concentrate his forces at Sharpsburg. He sent orders for the army's wagon trains

at Hagerstown to cross the Potomac at Williamsport and proceed through Martinsburg and Shepherdstown, recrossing the Potomac at the latter place to rejoin the army at Sharpsburg.

The crisis at the South Mountain passes prevented the Confederates from detailing a large force to guard their trains at Hagerstown. Only a tiny contingent of infantrymen accompanied the hundreds of wagons as they moved toward Williamsport on September 14. Unfortunately for the Southerners, a column of approximately 1,300 Union cavalrymen who had escaped from Harper's Ferry intercepted a portion of the Confederate train before dawn. The Federal horsemen captured 45 wagons loaded chiefly with commissary stores and ammunition, burned five of them and escorted the rest northward to Greencastle, Pennsylvania. Although E. P. Alexander later commented that the loss of these wagons was "a severe blow at such a distance from our base," the incident received only scant mention in Confederate reports of the campaign.

By September 16 Lee had concentrated his army, with the exception of two divisions, on a range of hills east of the town of Sharpsburg facing McClellan's army to the east.

Those men left in Lee's army at Antietam were nearly starving; an Alabamian wrote home that "hunger gnawed on our stomachs mightily." General D. H. Hill noted that since his division's commissary wagons had been sent off to cross the Potomac at Williamsport on September 15, his men "had been sustaining life on green corn and what cattle as they could kill in the fields." In General Richard B. Garnett's brigade, details from each company were sent into cornfields adjacent to the line of battle with orders to gather "roasting ears," each man being allowed eight ears a day. The absence of salt and the scarcity of wood to roast or burn the corn made its preparation a challenge.

By the night of September 16, General John B. Hood's division had "been without food for three days, except a half ration of beef for one day, and green corn." When the famished men finally went to the rear that evening after skirmishing with the Federals, they found that the supply wagons had not arrived. A captain in the Texas Brigade wrote that "just as we began to cook our rations near daylight [on September 17] we were shelled and ordered into formation."

Despite their intense hunger, Hood's Texans and the majority of Lee's troops fought splendidly on September 17 in the battle of Antietam. After a day of inactivity on the 18th, the Confederate commander issued orders that afternoon for the army to withdraw across the Potomac. By late morning on the 19th, all of the army, including the wagon trains, was across the Potomac.

As the Confederates moved into camps north of Winchester near Bunker Hill, Lee admitted to Jefferson Davis on September 21 that the army's efficiency had been "greatly paralyzed by the loss...of the numerous stragglers," which could be attributed to the general destitution in Lee's ranks. "Great privations in rest and food," wrote Lee, "and the long marches without shoes over mountain roads," had been the cause of the army's near collapse. The inability of the Confederate Commissary and Quartermaster Depart-ments to supply Lee's soldiers in the fall of 1862 had clearly led to a level of privation that the Army of Northern Virginia did not face again until the closing stages of the Civil War. ■

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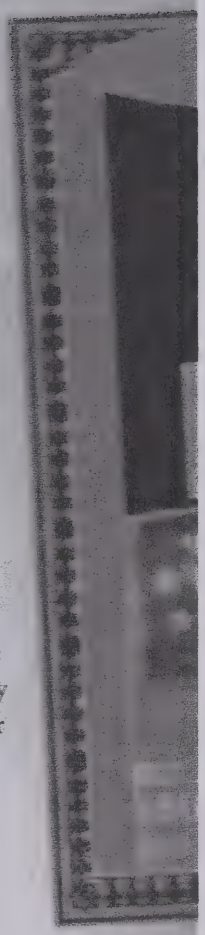

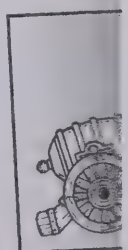

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They lay in twisted silence, a grim testament to the horrendous bloodletting on September 17 near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Captured for eternity by Northern photographers shortly after the battle, dead North Carolinians in the Sunken Lane and Louisianians along the Hagerstown Pike, their mangled bodies horribly stiff, bore little resemblance to the vital young men who, with their Confederate comrades, had just a few weeks earlier felt invincible. They had smashed the Union army at the Battle of Second Manassas in Virginia and continued northward, unopposed, crossing the Potomac River and entering enemy territory with bold promises of liberating Maryland. But when Lee's men

Chris Heisey Photo

A CAMPAIGN

Library of Congress

reached the opposite shore, Marylanders gave them the cold-shoulder — treatment that left many wondering why they had ever left the Old Dominion. By the end of the campaign, the apathy of their ungracious hosts so disgusted many Confederates that they never wanted to hear the popular tune "Maryland, My Maryland" again. **By Peter Carmichael**

OF BLUNDERS

Marylanders of all political persuasions looked upon Lee's army with suspicion. Only a few recruits trickled into the army's ranks. The ragtag appearance of Lee's soldiers, their tattered clothing, their emaciated bodies, and their curious soldier smells probably scared away many who considered Confederate service. Lee's army probably would have received a warmer reception in the eastern part of the state where pro-Confederate sentiment drew its strength from a dominant slaveholding class. While a plantation-based economy flourished in eastern Maryland, free labor defined the economy of the western panhandle. Most residents felt little sympathy for the proslavery purposes of the Southern cause. "We were in the most ultra [Union] portion of the state almost from the hour that we entered it," observed a Confederate artillerist, and "...scarcely a secessionist can be found."

> "Lee considered his venture into Maryland a campaign that would determine the existence of his army and nation."

Still, disappointment over the unenthusiastic reception did not ruin Lee's campaign. The commanding general realized that he could accomplish much merely by subsisting his army in Maryland. Virginia farmers desperately needed a respite from the ravages of war so they could protect livestock and harvest crops, vital necessities that the Army of Northern Virginia would need to survive the coming winter. If for no other reason, the prospect of living off the fat of Maryland justified Lee's venture across the Potomac.

Lee's boldness, however, did not come from his desire for food and foc He considered his venture into Maryl a campaign that would determine the existence of his army and nation. A m victory on Maryland soil, Lee hoped, would fuel Northern dissent against t administration of President Abraham Lincoln, already facing a maelstrom o icism because of conscription and the recent military failures in Virginia. Wit the November elections looming ahea Lee and Confederate President Jefferso Davis believed military success in Maryland would doom the Republicar Party and provide an opportunity for t Democratic opposition to settle the co flict through arbitration. Lee and Davis misread Democratic criticism of Lincol as support for Southern nationhood. L the Republicans, most Democrats were staunch defenders of the Union, but th wanted it preserved under the old Constitution. Their opposition to the w

Library of Congress

Once in Maryland, Lee saw that the Fed garrison at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, the strategically important railroad town at confluence of the Shenandoah and Poto Rivers, threatened his supply link to the Shenandoah Valley.

stemmed from what they perceived to be the heavy-handed tactics of the Lincoln administration, its excessive use of war powers, and its revolutionary intentions to overthrow the South's social system. Despite Lee and Davis's miscalculation, Lincoln could not afford another defeat. The Northern people would not stand for it, nor would England or France. Both nations were on the brink of recognizing the Confederacy. If European military intervention would follow the establishment of formal relations, the consequences would have been lethal to the Northern cause.

General George B. McClellan, the man who perceived himself as the great savior of the Union, had a final chance to fulfill his self-proclaimed prophecy after the Second Manassas debacle. After defeats on the Virginia Peninsula, Lincoln had taken McClellan's Army of the Potomac away from him, only to see it defeated at Manassas under General John Pope. Once McClellan returned to command, he put his great gifts as an administrator to work, reorganizing commands, equipping troops and quickly restoring morale. "It makes my heart bleed to see the poor shattered remnants of my noble Army of the Potomac," he wrote with his usual disregard for modesty. "And to see how they love me even now. I hear them calling out to me as I ride among them — 'George — don't leave us again!'" When Union scouts detected Lee's crossing of the Potomac, the Messianic visions returned to the commanding general. "Again I have been called upon to save the country — the case is desperate," he wrote his wife on September 5, "but with God's help I will try unselfishly to do my best, and, if he wills it, accomplish the salvation of the nation.... Truly, God is trying me in the fire."

Maybe if McClellan had focused more on Lee and less on deciphering his place in Providence's grand plans, he might have recognized the tremendous opportunity at hand. He might have seen that he faced a depleted Army of Northern Virginia, decimated by the Seven Days Battles and the fighting at Second Manassas. The constant marching had also brought the army close to physical exhaustion by the beginning of September. Many men lacked shoes, sufficient rations, and the necessary physical stamina for active campaigning. Others refused to cross the Potomac, insisting that they had enlisted in Confederate service to defend their native land, not to invade the North. Desertion threatened t paralyze the Army of Northern Virginia. McClellan might have seen that Lee's situ ation became even more perilous once he uncoiled across the Potomac, taking his forces even farther from its logistical base. In this vulnerable situation, McClellan could slash at the elongated body of the Army of Northern Virginia while its head slithered across the mountains of western Maryland.

If God during the Antietam Campaign was testing anyone, it was Lee Almost from the moment his soldiers touched the Maryland shore, his plans unraveled. On September 9, he issued hi famous Special Order No. 191, splitting his forces into two wings. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson would take six divisions to dispose of the Federal garrison a Harper's Ferry, freeing supply and communication lines into the Shenandoah Valley, while James Longstreet was to oversee the movement of three divisions to Hagerstown. This risky scheme suddenly became a reckless venture when a lost copy of Lee's order found its way to McClellan's headquarters. With Lee's blueprint in hand, McClellan had the car to topple his adversary's house. "Little Mac" attacked on September 14, but the Confederates offered a resilient defense a South Mountain. The next day Lee contemplated leaving Maryland until he received a message from Jackson that Harper's Ferry had fallen. With this good news, Lee decided to concentrate his arm at Sharpsburg. As he surveyed the landscape across Antietam Creek, he proclaimed: "We will make our stand on these hills."

Those words formed Lee's worst military decision of the war. With the Potomac to his back, his forces divided, only 19,000 men available, and facing a numerically superior enemy, the risks far outweighed any possible rewards for fighting at Sharpsburg. He could have left the state with his prestige intact, pointing to Jackson's capture of Harper's Ferry as the successful culmination of his campaign. Instead, he gave McClellan a remarkable opportunity to crush his army, an opportunity that would never again be presented to a Union general in the East. Just as Lee had correctly assumed, however, McClellan succumbed to his great capacity for timidity. He squandered September 16, by reconnoitering the terrain and positioning troops in the face of a Confederate army that he believed numbered more than a 100,000. McClellan loved the role of the underdog and he played it to perfection on the day before the battle.

By the morning of September 17, Lee's army presented a united front, some 35,000 men (excluding A. P. Hill's division) who occupied a four-mile line that stretched two miles north of Sharpsburg on the Potomac and extended two miles south of the town to the lower bridge crossing of Antietam Creek. In a series of uncoordinated assaults, McClellan first struck the Confederate left, then the center, and finally on the right. Both sides fought with unrelenting determination. The rolling terrain made it impossible to fight at great distances, forcing the combatants to engage at relatively close quarters. The intense, face to face fighting at the Cornfield and Sunken Lane gave the battle a savage dimension that left participants on both sides dazed and disoriented. A Pennsylvania soldier could not find the words to describe the human slaughter of Antietam. He wrote simply: "No tongue can tell, no mind conceive, no pen portray the horrible sights I witnessed this morning." A Georgian was also horrified by the carnage. "Great God, what awful things I have to chronicle this morning!.... One of the most awful battles that was ever fought was fought yesterday. [It] commenced at daylight and continued all day until dark.... This war will have to stop before long, as all the men will be killed off."

McClellan's ragged offensive bloodied Lee's army and nearly broke his line in several places. One grand assault, using the 24,000 Federal reserves stationed near the Union center, would have driven the Army of Northern Virginia into the Potomac. Instead, McClellan's piecemeal attacks allowed Lee to shift his meager reinforcements from one crisis to the next. In twelve hours almost 23,000 Union and Confederate casualties fell, but neither side gained a decisive advantage by the end of the day. Both armies held the ground they occupied that morning. The next day Lee refused to budge, though his army was in shambles. He foolishly considered a counterattack until Longstreet and Jackson convinced him to retire that evening. With Lee's soldiers safely in Virginia, McClellan could claim a slight tactical advantage, although he proclaimed the battle a complete success, a tribute to his masterful generalship. "Those in whose judgment I rely tell me that I fought the battle splendidly & that it was a masterpiece of art." he wrote to his wife. He wove his various strands of delusional thought into a virtual cocoon. Once he spun his self-congratulatory tales, he did not have to confront a campaign full of blunders and lost opportunities. "Little Mac" should have achieved a Waterloo, the knockout blow of the war.

In the bloodiest day of American history, the Army of Northern Virginia barely escaped disaster. The entire campaign had been a series of errors, bad judgments, and disappointments for the Confederate high command. Giving Virginia a temporary break from war and the capture of the Northern garrison at Harper's Ferry provided some solace to Lee who lamented

his failure to achieve his other strategic goals. Confederate fortunes had looked so promising in the late summer of 1862, but the military situation declined with alarming suddenness. Braxton Bragg's failed campaign in Kentucky and Lee's reverses in Maryland extinguished the possibility for European recognition. Southern defeats also hurt the chances of the Peace Democrats while stabilizing Northern morale.

The most damaging blow to the South came shortly after the battle when Lincoln announced the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Ironically, this sanctioned what the slaves had recognized and acted upon from the very beginning — that the war for Union was inextricably tied to a war for black freedom. Lincoln's Proclamation, with its avowed military purposes, followed the political action of runaway slaves who saw Union forces as armies of liberation. The President might have been slow in responding to the boldness and courage of escaped slaves, but he took great political risks when he issued the preliminary Proclamation. Northerners and Southerners understood the radical implications of a document that would ultimately put slavery on a course to extinction. After Antietam, the Civil War lost any vestiges of a limited war devoted to the restoration of the Union as it existed before 1861. The Emancipation Proclamation officially turned the conflict into a revolutionary struggle between two opposing social systems, one based on slavery and the other on free labor. Only one way of life would prevail, confirming what Lincoln had predicted in his famous House Divided Speech in 1858, that the United States "cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free." ■

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of the raiders prisoners, including Morgan's brother-in-law, Colonel Basil Duke, and his younger brother, John. Morgan himself escaped for the moment. Only a few days later, he and the rest of his men joined the other raiders in captivity after being brought to bay at Beaver Creek in Columbiana County.

Map of Morgan's Raid

Because the Union soldiers were in hot pursuit of Morgan and his raiders, they left it to civilians in the vicinity of Buffington's Island to bury the dead. Unfortunately, they left no record to document the place or places they interred the bodies. We know only that they buried them "on the battlefield." Now approximately 600 acres of that field are in imminent danger of obliteration in the name of progress because the Shelly Company of Thornville, Ohio, recently applied for permits to dig a gravel pit on the site and construct a barge loading dock in the Ohio River. Because this area lies in the heart of the Buffington Island Battlefield — only four acres of which enjoy protection as a state park — there is a strong possibility the strip mining process will unearth and destroy the long-lost graves of Morgan's men.

Public hearings in February 1999 drew a large group of preservationists and others opposed to the proposed gravel pit. More than 30 of them, including representatives of the Ohio Civil War Trails Commission, the Buffington Island Battlefield Trust, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War stood united in their plea that the site be kept intact. No one, not even residents of Meigs County who stand to benefit from the economic benefits and employment opportunities promised by the gravel company, spoke in favor of the project.

Pending the decision of state and federal authorities on the proposed gravel pit, preservation groups continue to try to locate the missing graves. With the help of Bob Melia, a thermal imaging specialist whose past successes include locating soldier graves at Fort Butler and Manassas, they hope to find Morgan's men. The Battlefield Trust asks for help in raising $1500 to $2000 needed to cover expenses on this endeavor.

For more information, check out the Buffington Island website at www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Quarters/7196/raiders.html or e-mail Marlitta H. Perkins at morgansmen@usa.net or write to: Buffington Island Battlefield Group, P.O. Box 384, Brice, Ohio 43109-0384. ■

CWiz

Much to our surprise, we did not receive a single correct answer to our CWiz Guest #72 question in our February issue. It seems we will have to make our clues a little more transparent in the future if we really intend to give away books and logo merchandise.

The answer to the question that stumped everyone was: The scout who never saw the Promised Land is a reference to Caleb, the scout who, with Joshua, reported to Moses on the bountiful nature of the Holy Land at the end of Israel's 40-year Exodus. Our Caleb, who did not see the "Promised Land" of Confederate independence, was Caleb Huse, purchasing agent for the Confederacy in Europe. The six brothers were six Blakely rifled cannon he purchased and shipped across the Atlantic in 1861. The wealthy man who took four of them to heart was Wade Hampton, who paid for four of the guns to arm Hart's Battery of the Hampton Legion. One of those guns was the first to be lost in battle by the horse artillery of General Jeb Stuart (the Last Cavalier) when Union cavalry, supported by Strong Vincent's infantry brigade, captured it at the Goose Creek Bridge near Middleburg, Virginia, in June 1863. We know the present location of only three of Huse's Blakely Rifles — one is in a private collection in Atlanta, Georgia, and two are in the Washington (D.C.) Navy Yard

CWIZ GUEST #74

Test your knowledge of Civil War minutia with each issue's history contest: "CWiz". Careful consideration of the clues will lead to interesting information about the war and the people who fought it.

■ Tired of minding my business, I donned a lieutenant's bars in the early days of one war. Although an amateur with no formal training, I was promoted to major-general by its end, then "busted" to colonel through no fault of my own. My second war saw me in command of an army, giving orders to a future president and securing a rich port for my country. When I retired with the old century, I was a lieutenant again — lieutenant general this time.

Identify me and win a Civil War Society t-shirt of your choice. Send your answers by mail to "CWiz," P.O. Box 770, Berryville, VA 22611-0770; via fax to (540) 955-2321; or by e-mail to cwmag@mnsinc.com. (Please make sure your entry is marked CWiz #74).

Answers must be received at Society headquarters no later than June 28, 1999. Postmarks will not be accepted. Due to CIVIL WAR Magazine's production schedule, winners of CWIZ #74 will be announced in the October issue (#76).

From Headquarters

An All-Time High

In the 223 years since the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that the nation founded on these shores would be unlike any in the history of mankind, Americans have strived to prove just that. We have made mistakes, costly ones, and we continue to make them, but, on the whole, we tend to do things with enthusiasm, vigor and in a big way. Sometimes we surprise ourselves with the results.

In 1861, we went to war with ourselves. Some 20 million Northerners pitted their power and institutions against about half that many Southerners and their resolve. It took us about a year to get our bearings, but then we began killing and maiming each other with an efficiency that was truly astounding. The year 1862 was the year we learned for the first time the terrible power of angry, committed Americans, and it must have been horrifying.

In the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico combined we sustained some 35,000 dead and wounded. We far exceeded that total in the first six months of 1862. After three relatively quiet months, from a modern perspective at least, the slaughter began in April 1862. Almost 24,000 men were killed or wounded in two days of battle at Shiloh on the Tennessee River, setting a new standard of American bloodletting. Milder weather brought harsher fighting. More than 11,000 fell at Seven Pines in Virginia on May 31 and June 1. Less than a month later, at Gaines's Mill, outside of Richmond, some 13,000 went down in about six hours, setting a new record for intensity if not for grand totals. Robert E. Lee's victory at Gaines's Mill was the centerpiece of a week of fighting along the Chickahominy and James Rivers that left more than 31,000 Americans dead or wounded. But the year was only half gone.

At Second Manassas the armies would strew another 19,000 killed and wounded across the Virginia landscape, and 14,000 more at Fredericksburg. This is to say nothing of the thousands felled at Corinth, Mississippi, Perryville, Kentucky, and Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Or of Sharpsburg on Antietam Creek in Maryland.

At least 21,000 men were killed or wounded at Antietam in a single 24-hour span. The losses were almost equally divided, as if Northern Americans and Southern Americans must share the bragging rights for carnage inflicted on the legions of young men who marched forward over those green and rolling hills. Never in American history has the loss of human life at Antietam been equaled in a comparable time period. As modern movie goers sit enthralled or repulsed at the gory opening scenes of "Saving Private Ryan", little might they realize that similar scenes were played out here on our own soil many times over in 1862.

Seventy-six years after our Civil War, the re-United States accepted a major role in the worst war in the history of mankind. Humanity is still recovering, but the struggle helped define modern America. That we emerged not only victorious, but glorious from that struggle undoubtedly had something to do with our past. American soldiers had been through the mill. We had given ourselves the trials European and Asian warriors had endured in centuries of warfare, and by the time Omaha Beach and Okinawa and Iwo Jima came along, we had a history of war to fall back upon. In none of those American battles in the world's worst war did the slaughter match that achieved on the banks of Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862.

Acting on the principle that we can never know too much, we are pleased to offer to our readers this issue on the bloodiest day of the Civil War. We do not recount the blow-by-blow history of the struggle, but we instead offer insight into the armies and their commanders by some of the premier Civil War historians working today. Robert K. Krick is said to know more about the army of Northern Virginia than Robert E. Lee did. John Hennessy stands alone as the authority on the internal workings of the Army of the Potomac in 1862, and Peter Carmichael, the instigator of this issue, continues to surprise with the depth of his research and his penchant for discovering the new and unusual. Few historians have delved as deeply into George McClellan and his campaigns as has Bill Miller, and fewer still can match Keith Bohannon's authority on nuts-and-bolts issues within Lee's army.

In short, this is an issue for our readers to savor – fine historians writing about one of the pivotal days in American history. Civil War history doesn't get much better

Christopher M. Curran

4

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12th Connecticut Infantry WIA Port Hudson, LA

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Item Details

Item Number: LTR-66
Category: Letters

Letter Date: October 11, 1864
Name on Letter: Henry J. Fletcher

Price: $210

Description

8 pages, period ink

In the field, Cedar Creek, Va.
Tuesday, Oct 11th, 1864

My dear wife,

We arrived at this place last evening and this morning is the first or a long time that we have not either marched or had orders to march so that everything was packed up, so that I have not had a chance to write. This morning I put up my tent and got out my desk, and if we don't get orders to move before I get through, will try to write you a letter.

When I wrote you last I received no letter from you for a long time, but in a few days, got two at once, one of Sept 20th, another of 22nd and in a day or two after, one of the 18th. So, I see it was not your fault any more than it was mine that you did not get my letters. You say in yours of the 18th that you suppose you will have to go to my folks when you want to hear from me. But, I don't see why, for I write to you oftener than anyone else, and intend always to do so.

I do not care to have money enough to live at home without work, nor do I ever expect to have. All I wished for was enough to start me in business again after paying all my debts. I am glad to get your opinion of our setting in Plantsville again, and it corresponds with mine. I think we should be more likely to succeed there, but I think I should like to live in Plainville better, however we will decide to go back to Plantsville as soon after I come home as possible. And, then as I am determined to succeed, I believe we shall.

I expect to get out of the Army on Grant's order that I wrote you about before, but have since found that it was not, and is not, to be made public until after the fall campaign is over. I have a friend on Sheridan's staff by the name of Major Hickey. He has seen the order. It provides that all men who have served in the Army for three years (no matter in how many different capacities) are at the end of that time to be honorably discharged if they wish it. And, such has always been the case in the regular Army, when a man had served out his period of enlistment he was out of the service no matter how many times he might have been promoted. The idea is simply absurd, that because a man is smart enough to get promotion that he must stay in the service longer than his original contract with the Gov't. The officers in the 7th were probably re-mustered into the new organization. I have not been.

I don't know but if I was home we might so worse than accept help from the town, but I hope not. But, I am very glad Dea. Gladding got you the word. I think it will be better for you to buy wood sawed and split, when you can, and hope that will be soon now. I am glad to hear that Willie is such a favorite at Sabbath School. I have not got my Bible with me. It is in my valise, so I can't look out the verses. I wish I could.

Mr. Walkely takes a great interest in the pay department of our Army. I should think if there were a few less such scoundrels at home to rob and cheat men's' wives who are doing their duty for the country, it would be much better for us.

I don't object to paying him or anyone else that I owe and intend to do it as soon as possible, but won't be done any sooner for the continually dunning us for it. He is right about the paymasters having received the money to pay us, but he must have known it about as soon as they did at Washington for the Paymaster came to this army within a week and have but just begun to pay, and as soon as one begins to pay our Division, I can get mine. And, I assure you as soon as I can get it I shall send you some. I am very anxious about you and shall leave n means untried to send you money.

I believe I have now answered yours of the 18th about my not writing often or long letters, as I got these last ones first, but I am afraid you will think I deserve it all by this time. But, it is impossible for me to write while we are on a march, but I do as often as I can when we stop. I am very glad you liked the letters I wrote, and that they done you so much good. I have got very decent clothes now that is for the field, and am not ashamed to ride with the General, as I have to quite frequently. I forgot to say anything about pants. I wear a pair of light blue cavalry pants, such as I draw for my men. They are like infantry privates' pants, only they are "reinforced", that is they are double on the seat and down the inside the legs. Most of the staff officers wear them. The only thing that looks shabby about me is my hat, but that is no more worse than many others, and not so bad one that Capt. De Forest wear, and he's now on Gen. Emory's staff.

I too wish I could get a leave of absence for a few days, and presume I can the last of this month by asking for it, but I think it will be better for me not to, as it might make me some trouble about coming home for good the last of next. I hope too that I won't have to go back to the Reg't. for I like this business very much better, and it suits me better. I never could have stood the marches we have made if it had not been for this. I have got one very pretty horse and the easiest riding horse I was ever on. I should like to have him home for you to ride. Then, I

have another very large, fat horse that I use when we have a long march. I could like to have them both home if I could.

Len. Stayed with me three or four days while we were at Harrisonburg, and while he was there I armed and mounted about 15 of my men and went out foraging, and I got very pretty colt which I am breaking.

No indeed Lizzie, I do not think any man could take my place with you. What I aid about it was only in fun. I am sorry if the reports about Mrs. H. are true. Yet, I think it possible they may be although I don't know anything about it. It may be possible that some of the soldiers' wives are accused wrongly. I had no reason for not signing myself faithful for I can do so with truth. I omitted it because I forgot it, and yet have sometimes taken particular notice to see if you did.

I was surprised, grieved and sorry to know that my children had been naughty. I have always thought of them as being such good children and now must think of them as sometimes naughty enough to call other children names. Oh, it is too bad, too bad. Why won't they be as good as papa thought they were? I don't believe if they knew how bad it makes me feel, that they would do anything so naughty, and I hope they won't again. I hope when they go to do anything wrong again, they will stop and think if it will please papa. I know they don't want to make me sad, and believe they will try not to again. You may give my love to them all, and kiss each of tem for me that have been good. I have answered yours of the 20th, except what I shall answer in reply to the 22nd.

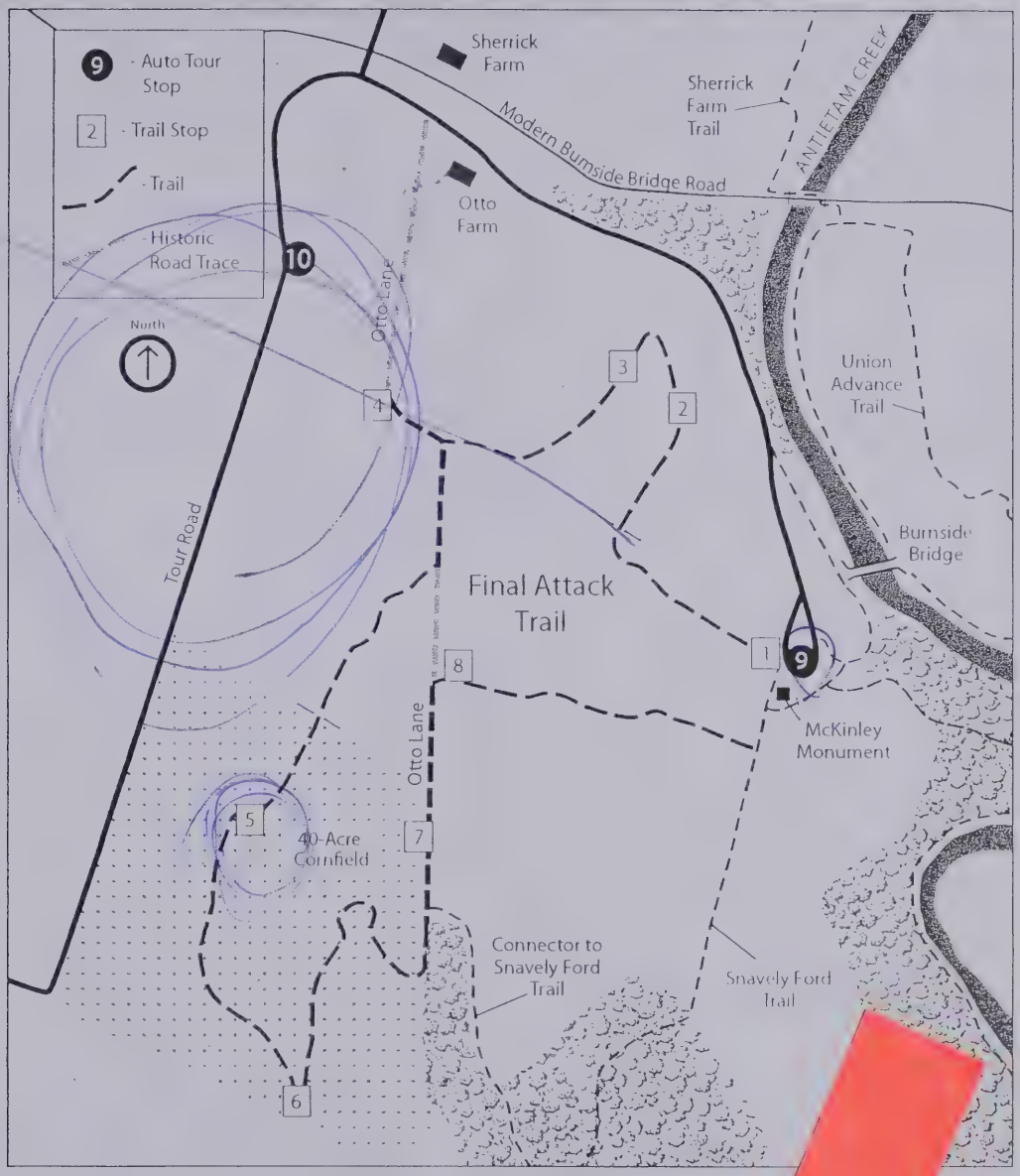
I am sorry you are obliged to worry so much about me, and thank you for your prayers in my behalf. I thought of them even while I was on the battlefield during the battle of the Monday you speak of, and since whenever I am in danger, and

The Final Attack Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Antietam National Battlefield
P. O. Box 158
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Trail Map



Stop 1 - Introduction

The Final Attack Trail begins at Auto Tour Stop 9. The trail is 1.7 miles in length and takes 60 to 90 minutes to walk. The terrain is rolling and the trail can be uneven, so good walking shoes are recommended. Please stay on the trail.

After capturing the Burnside Bridge, approximately 8,000 Union soldiers reorganized on this side of Antietam Creek. Forming a line of battle a wide mile, they advanced across the ground that you will walk for the final attack to drive Robert E. Lee's Confederate army from Maryland.

In this part of the battle [illegible] from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., [illegible] times as many casualt[illegible] were in the action at the B[illegible]ge. Two Generals were killed [illegible] Harrison Fairchild's Brigad[illegible] soldiers suffered the high[illegible]e of casualties for any brigade [illegible] army at the Battle of Antie[illegible]nal two and one-half hours of [illegible]lude the twelve hour strugg[illegible]nks as the bloodiest one-day battle [illegible] can history.

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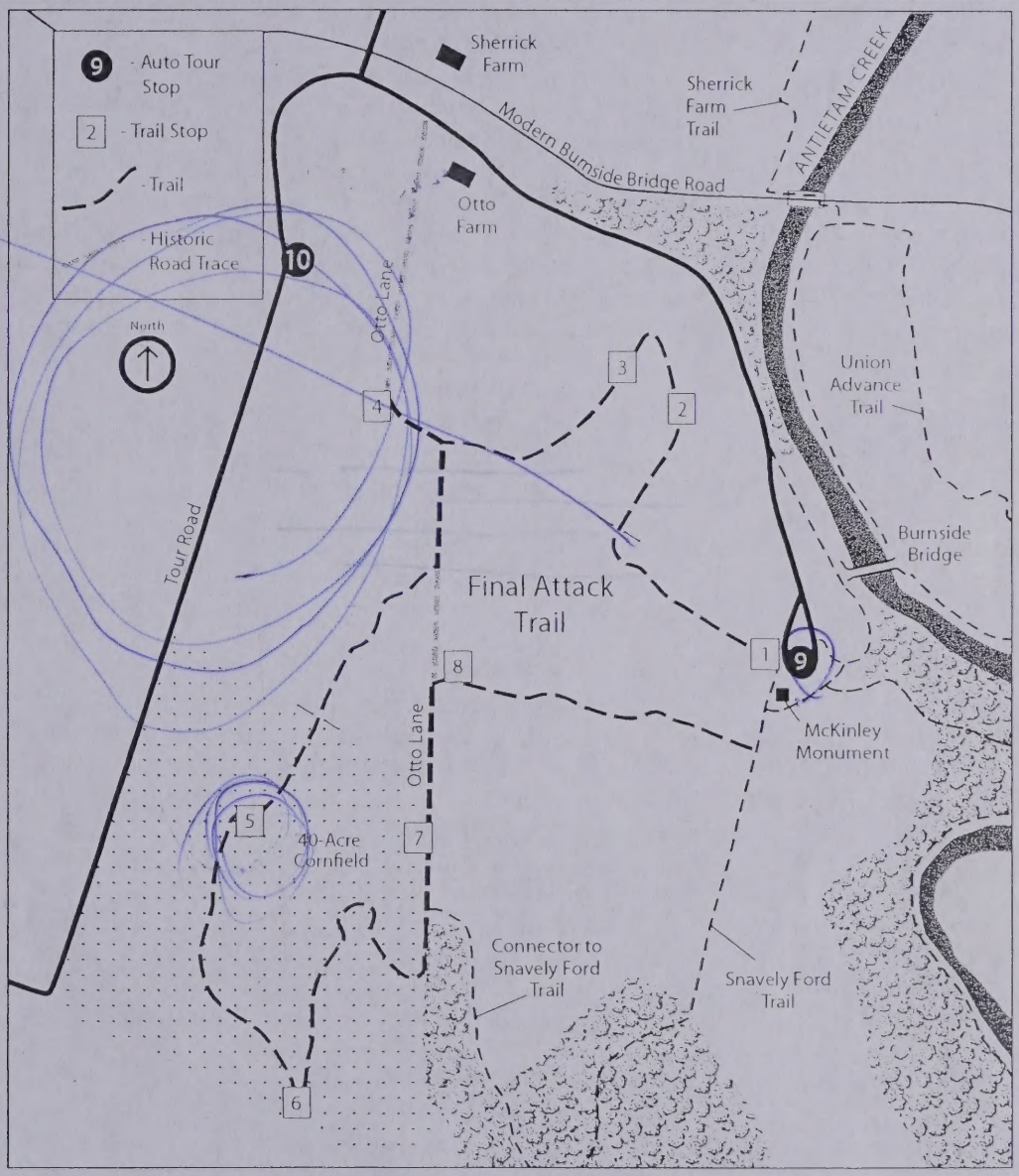

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In this part of the battle, which lasts from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., there were five times as many casualties than there were in the action at the Burnside Bridge. Two Generals were killed and Colonel Harrison Fairchild's Brigade of Union soldiers suffered the highest percentage of casualties for any brigade in the Union army at the Battle of Antietam. These final two and one-half hours of combat conclude the twelve hour struggle that still ranks as the bloodiest one-day battle in American history.

Head west for about 100 yards then bear right.

Stop 2 - Advance on Sharpsburg

You are facing mostly east. Antietam Creek is at the bottom of the hill below you and the Burnside Bridge is 300 yards to your right. The Union 9th Corps gathered behind the hill on the other side of Antietam Creek and made their assaults on the bridge. Once the Burnside Bridge was taken, about 8,000 Union soldiers gathered on this side of the creek, many of them moving up the creek valley below.

Trail bends around the hill to the west.

Stop 3 - The Sherrick Farm

In the valley in front of you is the Sherrick Farm. The farm was built in the 1830's by Joseph Sherrick Jr. and was leased to Leonard Emmert at the time of the battle. You are standing at about the center of Burnside's battle line.

From here the trail continues west and down towards the historic Otto Lane and 11th Ohio Monument.

Stop 4 - Otto Lane Respite

As you enter the historic Otto Lane the trail continues south (left). This entire trail is located on the Otto Farm. John and Kate Otto's home is just to the north down this historic farm lane. After they advanced under the terrible fire from Confederate rifles and cannons to this point, Union soldiers would use this lane and gully to try to find respite from the terror.

Backtrack to the trail which follows Otto Lane south then turn right across the field to the 16th CT Monument.

Stop 5 - Caught in the Corn

It was the 16th CT and the 4th RI of Col. Edward Harland's Brigade that took much of the onslaught of the Maj. General A P. Hill's Confederate counterattack in the 40-Acre Cornfield. Hill's men had been left behind after the capture of Harpers Ferry. Lee ordered Hill to join the army as soon as possible. They left Harpers Ferry at 7:00 a.m., marched fifteen grueling miles, waded across the Potomac River, and arrived about 4:00 p.m. Three of Hill's five brigades, about 2,500 men, would arrive in time to attack.

From here the trail continues south, through what was the 40-Acre Cornfield to the southern most boundary of the park.

Stop 6 - The End of the Line

You have walked to the extreme southern end of the battlefield and have completed a mile of the 1.7 mile trail. You are beyond the southern flank of the Union army. Once again, it was on this end of the field that A.P. Hill's Confederates made their counterattack to support D. R. Jones' division that was being pushed back to Sharpsburg.

From here the trail winds north. You will be walking in the footsteps of Hill's men as they attacked Burnside's flank.

Stop 7 - Final Attack Vista

You are overlooking one of the best battle panoramas at Antietam. From this spot you can see most of the ground covered in the 9th Corps advance and A.P. Hill's counterattack. As you face west, Hill's soldiers attacked from your front and left and the Union line collapsed from left to right.

Continue north along Otto Lane.

Stop 8 - Artillery Ridge

This ridge line was used by the artillery of both sides. Early in the battle two Confederate batteries held this ground and used it hold Burnside's men at bay. After the bridge was taken and the Southern cannon left this ridge, two U.S. batteries would pull into the same position facing in the opposite direction and supported Burnside's advance.

From here the trail turns east. You are now headed back towards the Burnside Bridge.

Final Stop - The McKinley Monument - Soldier, Statesman and Martyr

Sergeant McKinley was a Commissary Sergeant with the 23rd Ohio. During the battle, Sergeant McKinley bravely served the soldiers in his regiment. After the war, McKinley served as a Congressman and Governor of Ohio. He was twice elected as President before he was shot and killed at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in 1901. This monument was dedicated in his memory two years later on October 13, 1903.

Burnside's advance and A.P. Hill's counterattack concluded the twelve hours of fighting on September 17, 1862. On this end of the battlefield the Union men fell back to where you started this walk. The difficult terrain, the confusion of battle, and a timely Confederate arrival all combined to stop the Union army and led to a tactical draw. General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia held their ground on the 18th, then withdrew back across the Potomac River to Virginia.

8th Regiment Conn Vol Inf Service

Map Reference

9/21/1861	Organized at Hartford
10/17/1861	Left State - ordered to Annapolis
	Duty at Annapolis until 1/6/1862
1/7 - 2/8/1862	Burnside's expedition to Hatteras Inlet (1)
	and Roanoke Island, NC
2/8/1862	Battle of Roanoke Island
	Duty at Roanoke Island until 3/11/1862
3/11-13/1862	Moved to New Berne, NC (3)
3/14/1862	Battle of Newberne, NC (3)
3/23 to 4/26	Operations against Fort Macon (4)
4/12/1862	Skirmish Fort Macon (4)
4/26/1862	Capture of Fort Macon (4)
	Duty at New Berne until July (3)
7/2/1862	Moved to Morehead City
7/3-5/1862	Moved to Newport News, VA (5)
	Duty there until August 1
8/1-5/1862	Moved to Fredericksburg, VA (6)
	Duty there until August 31
8/31 - 9/3	Moved to Brooks Station then to
	Wash DC
9/12/1862	Frederick, MD (7)
9/14/1862	Turner's Gap, South Mountain (8)
9/16-17/1862	Battle of Antietam (9)

Last Letter from O C Case 8/7/1862

Summary of Service 8th Regiment Conn Vol Inf
(up to when Oliver C Case was killed)

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]